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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 158

Available from Wednesday,  
October 6, 2010

THE CLASSIC PANTOMIME ADVENTURE!

John Thomson

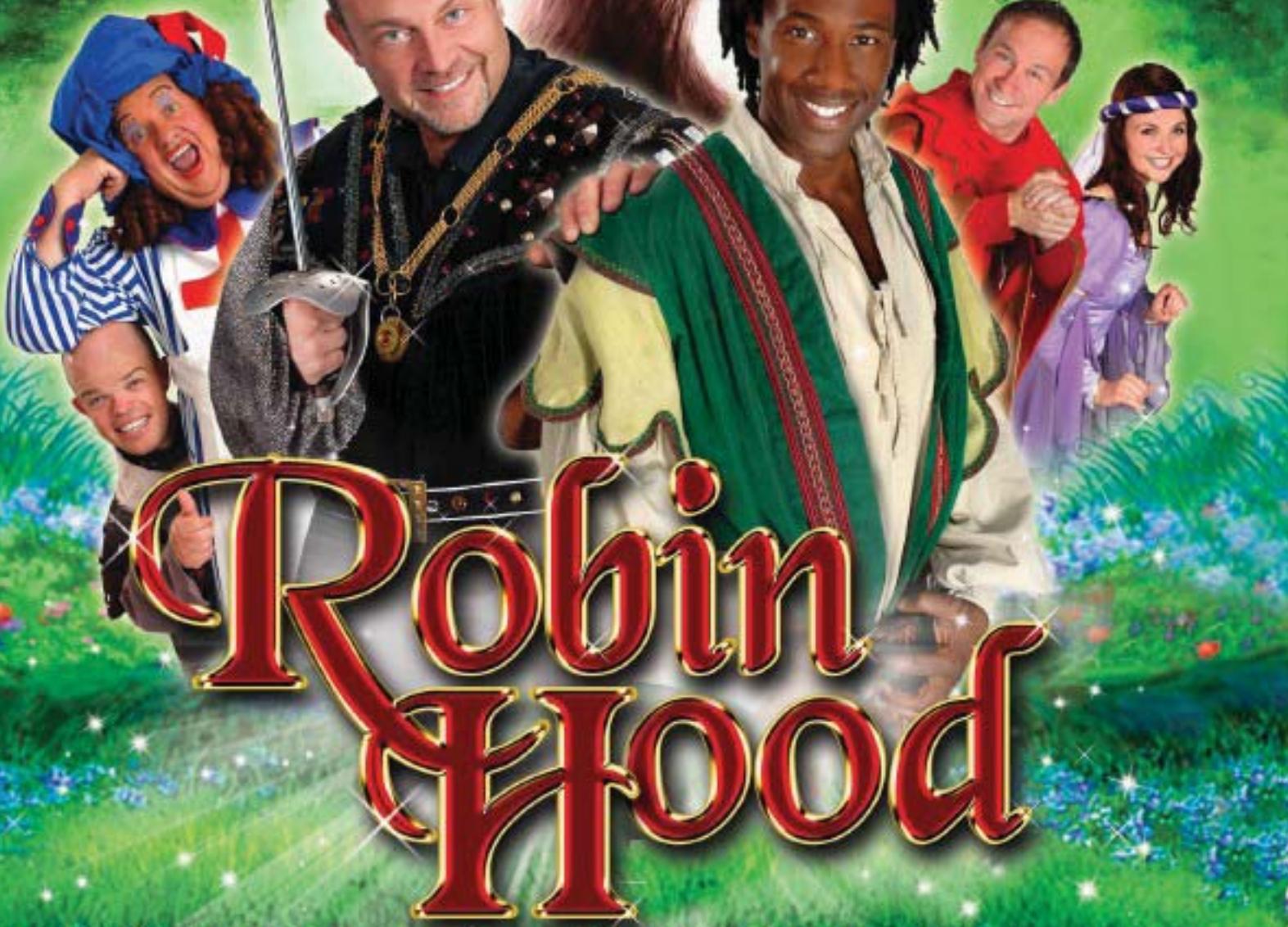
(Cold Feet, Coronation St)

Dave Lee

(Local Legend)

Sid Sloane

(Sid from CBeebies)



# Robin Hood

Phil Holden - Ben Langley - Alan Mehdizadeh - Katie Birtill

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 - 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011

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# Robin Hood at the Marlowe Theatre Arena

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## Brand new auditorium for Marlowe Arena's audience

**E**XCITING plans are already under way to bring audiences a fantastic festive treat this Christmas. Top comedy actor John Thomson and CBeebies presenter Sid Sloane will be joining local funnyman Dave Lee in the spectacular family pantomime Robin Hood.

The biggest panto in Kent will be taking place in a brand new version of the Marlowe Theatre Arena, which is still situated in the centre of Canterbury at Kingsmead.

Robin Hood organisers have changed the seating by bringing the stage right out into the audience.

The new layout has far more 'raked' seating than last year and surrounds the stage on three sides, so the entire audience will have an excellent view of this stunning new production.

Producer Emily Wood said: "We listened to the feedback from last year's show and we are absolutely thrilled with the new seating. The audience will be much closer to the stage and they will really feel part of the fun and action."

Director Paul Hendy said: "It's a traditional swashbuckling, action-packed pantomime with lots of comedy and romance. There really is something for everyone."

John will play the evil Sheriff of Nottingham, while Sid is the eponymous hero in green tights.

Robin Hood is at the Marlowe Theatre Arena from Friday, December 3, to Sunday, January 16.

For further details and to book tickets, phone the Marlowe box office on 01227 787787, call in to the Visitor Information Centre in Sun Street, Canterbury, or go to [www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk](http://www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk). Go to [www.marlowerobinhood.co.uk](http://www.marlowerobinhood.co.uk) to see a detailed plan of the auditorium.

**ENTERTAINERS:** This year's cast are promising a panto you won't forget in a hurry



## Sheriff John's finally found his perfect role

**C**OMEDY actor John Thomson is thrilled to be playing the iconic character The Sheriff of Nottingham. He landed the role thanks to his good friend Joe Pasquale, who told John about the Marlowe's reputation for producing some of the best pantomimes in the country.

He is bewildered as to why he hasn't done more panto, saying: "I've got acting and stand-up experience and I tread the line between mainstream and stand-up. I'm also an impersonator.

"I sing a bit and I'm a jack of all trades. I'm made for panto because I have the stand-up, so I know how to work the audience.

"I'm done some theatre, not a massive amount, but enough to know about it. The combination seems perfect for panto, but it never crossed my mind."

His face is instantly recognisable from TV shows like Cold Feet and Coronation Street, but there's more, so much more, to John Thomson's repertoire.

The 41-year-old Mancunian's career spans more than two decades but started while he was still at college voicing the puppets on the satirical show Spitting Image.

After winning the Perrier Award in 1992 with Steve Coogan at the Edinburgh Festival, he went on to work and write with Steve in the Paul Calf Video Diaries: Three Fights, Two Weddings And A Funeral (Bafta winner) and Coogan's Run.

He later played the memorable Joe Beasley and Cheeky Monkey in Knowing Me, Knowing You and pub landlord Ken in Men Behaving Badly. Sticking with his comedy roots, John appeared as a multitude of characters on BBC2's The Fast Show.

Other TV credits include The Smell Of Reeves And Mortimer, The World Of Lee Evans, Murder In Mind, New Street Law and Kingdom.

However, he is probably best remembered for his portrayal of Pete Gifford in the multi-award-winning Cold Feet, for which he was nominated for Best Actor at the Comedy Awards.

Film credits include The English Patient, The Man Who Knew Too Little (with Bill Murray), 24 Hour Party People (reuniting him with Steve Coogan) and The Young Poisoner's Handbook.

Most recently, John could be seen in the new BBC comedy Big Top and on ITV as Jesse Chadwick in Coronation Street.

Last month he appeared in the BBC4 'origins' drama Florizel Street.

John, who is married with two daughters, has also appeared on stage in several productions, including pantomime once before.



**PERFECT COMBINATION:** John Thomson plays this year's panto villain as the Sheriff of Nottingham



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Issue No 158

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# CHURCH PROTESTOR IN HUNGER STRIKE THREAT

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**NIL BY MOUTH:** Christopher Cooper is handed supplies by a passerby, but is now threatening to go on hunger strike

## EXCLUSIVE

■ BY ED HILL

CHRIS Cooper, the man who has set up a tent to protest against proposed changes to St Mary's Church, has threatened to go on hunger strike when the builders move in.

The 31 year old says he has collected 174 signatures supporting his protest and has been given money by passersby to help buy food.

He said: "If I did not have the town on my side then I would not be here now. I have had many people offering me support."

On Monday contractors dumped temporary fencing in the church grounds ready to be erected when work begins on the alterations to the inside of the church.

Mr Cooper said: "The church has tripped itself up on this. They are ignoring the fabric of the building to tinker with the inside."

The bell ringer says he now has a lodger to share his tent. He has been joined by a local homeless man at night.

He said: "It is very good that Mick has joined me. It made things better here on Saturday night when we have a lot of people coming out of the pubs."

Figures show Ashford council has so far spent more than £191,000 on developing St Mary's Church into a space more able to hold public performances.

Jeremy Adby, of Church Yard, obtained the figures under the Freedom of Information Act.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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# Longer festival attracts young folk enthusiasts

■ BY ED HILL

FOLK music fans flocked to Tenterden at the weekend to take part in its annual folk festival.

Now in its 18th year, for the first time, the event ran over four days.

Alan Castle, festival manager, said: "We expanded the programme, which the venues and pubs were keen for us to do."

The concerts began on Thursday and ran to Sunday evening.

Many say the festival's success is down to its informality.

Mr Castle said: "It has grown into a participatory event. We have lots of sing-arounds in the pubs, a barn dance and the concerts.

"If we do have a big name they're happy to blend in with everyone else. It is very casual atmosphere, which is what makes it so nice."

On Saturday, Morris dance teams from around the country attended to take part in the annual parade down the town's high street.

Mr Castle said although the festival attracted many visitors to Tenterden, which helped boost its economy, it was not designed specifically to draw in tourists.

He said: "The music is what comes first. All our funders chip in on the understanding they will have no influence on the artistic element of the festival.

"We consider ourselves to be a traditional festival. As a charity, our main aim is to promote English Folk Music."



Picture LEWIS BROOKWAY

**THE BIG SQUEEZE:** The Ram Company played at the Sinden Theatre during the folk festival

Folk is currently undergoing a renaissance, which has helped swell the numbers coming to Tenterden. Many of the hotels were fully booked over the weekend along with the caravan sites.

And younger generations of musicians are taking over from those involved in the revival of the 60s.

Mr Castle said: "Some of the older artists, such as Roy Harris, who was one of our guests this year, now have children and grandchildren getting involved and passing it down the generations.

"And we have a lot more younger people doing it. This year we have a 16-year-old from Canterbury performing and locally we have 12- and 13-year-olds standing up and singing along at the sing-arounds."

## St Mary's revamp is for 'local community'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

They include items such as legal fees, architectural consultation, catering and advertising.

Mr Adby said: "Whatever the rights or wrongs of the changes, the Church of England has its own capital and land. If they want to turn one of their own buildings into an arts centre, surely it should be down to them."

The former councillor said the building's usual maintenance had been ignored.

He said: "It is Grade-I listed and they have done nothing. They have effectively let the building go."

Growth area funding of £1.2 million has been set aside by Ashford's Future for the reordering of the church.

A spokesman for the Canterbury Diocese said: "The plans will mean this beautiful building will be able to fully serve the people of Ashford."

"The Diocese has entered into partnership with the Borough Council because the project will benefit local people. It is a win-win situation for both the local community and the worshipping community."

"After a long legal process, including an appeal, the courts have fully approved the plans."

## Raging garage fire destroys vehicles

POLICE are investigating a fire in Betherden that destroyed a commercial garage and eight vehicles.

Fire crews were called to the blaze on Old Surrenden Manor Road at 3.10am on Tuesday morning.

The fire also spread to two nearby silos thought to contain gas cylinders.

A spokesman for Kent Fire and Rescue said: "Along with the building, there were a number of vehicles in the garage that were well alight. Crews used compressed air foam to put the fire out more quickly."

"The fire spread to the silos which contained tyres and rubbish. They tackled the fire from a distance until they could confirm the contents of the cylinders. Old Surrenden Road was closed in both directions and a 200m exclusion zone was set up."

The fire was put out by 7.30am and crews continued to monitor the scene.

## yourshopway NEWS IN BRIEF

### Your pharmaceutical comments wanted

AN OPEN meeting is being held at the Holiday Inn in Ashford on Thursday to discuss pharmaceutical services in the area.

The subjects under discussion include the service provided by local chemists, doctors who prescribe in rural areas and providers of prescription items such as catheters.

The NHS wants to know how people use these services and what changes they feel might be useful.

Andrew Scott-Clark, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's deputy director of public health, said: "We want people's views about their area because every community's need is different."

The meeting is on Thursday October 7, at 7pm. Feedback can also be given online at [www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/PNA](http://www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/PNA). Responses must be submitted by November 18.

### Choirmaster dies suddenly at home

A FORMER organist and choirmaster at St Mary's Church in Kennington has died suddenly.

David Mole, 64, suffered a heart attack at his home in Tritton Fields on Tuesday last week and died in the William Harvey Hospital.

Mr Mole had been head librarian at Ashford from 1981 to 1991.

After retiring in 1998 he became organist at Kingsnorth Church and later moved to Kennington where he was organist and choirmaster.

Church warden Derek Sorrell said: "He was a quiet, unassuming man with a great sense of humour."

Mr Mole taught music and was involved in many community projects.



MISSSED: David with his grandson

### Secure your number plate following thefts

A SPATE of licence plate thefts in the borough has prompted police to warn drivers to make sure they are secured strongly to their cars.

There have been four thefts of the plates recently in the area.

Police say number plates are often taken to be used for crimes such as the theft of petrol and to evade speed cameras causing further disruption for the original owner.

They are encouraging car owners to obtain security screws designed to make the plates harder to remove.

Ashford's crime prevention officer Richard Lester is urging drivers to go to their local car dealerships to get the screws fitted.

Also, he does have some screws for certain makes and models of car. You can contact him at Ashford Police Station on 01233 896336.

# Government heating scheme leaves family out in the cold

## EXCLUSIVE

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

AFTER four years without hot water or central heating, a single mum of three has taken the company behind a government scheme to court.

When Kelly Isherwood, 36, bought her first home, a large property in Sellindge, in 2006, she knew it would need a lot of work.

As a single mum with three children, the eldest only 10 years old and the younger two registered autistic, Kelly applied for a Warm Front government grant to install efficient central heating in their new home.

### Poverty

The Warm Front scheme aims to tackle fuel poverty in the UK by offering packages of up to £6,000 in insulation and heating to some of the most vulnerable sections of society.

Ms Isherwood was accepted for the grant but, after hearing nothing for eight months, she contacted the scheme, only to be told that her application had been lost and she would have to re-apply.

More than a year passed, during which the house was badly damaged in the Folkestone earthquake.

Kelly said: "We had no hot water and no heating. We relied on blow-heaters and baths filled with jugs from the kettle. In one quarter



**WARMING UP:** Isherwood and children, Fred and Scarlett, who now have heating for the first time in four years

alone my electricity bill was £3,500."

EAGA, who administer the Warm Front grants on behalf of the government, will not pay for work which is done by anyone except their approved partners, so in order to claim the £6,000 grant, Kelly had to wait for them to get in touch.

Eventually engineers were sent out to the property but as they were unable to fit the appropriate heating themselves they brought in a sub-contractor who hadn't been CRB checked by the Warm Front scheme and who

swore constantly.

Kelly said: "You expect a bit of swearing but he used the c-word in every sentence and made lewd comments that made me so uncomfortable I had to ask him to leave."

Again there was no word for six months and Ms Isherwood had to move her family into a mobile home.

In April 2009 another company did another technical survey and this time presented Kelly with a two-page list of demands which needed to be fulfilled before the work could take place.

Having completed this additional work, the installer then declined the job. The second set of contractors decided to move the location of the boiler and required an additional trench to be dug.

Finally a date was set for the work, February 22. Having paid a small contribution to the work, cleared the rooms and warned her autistic children that there would be strangers in the house, Kelly waited for the workmen to arrive.

When no one came she contacted the company and they said they had cancelled and rebooked the work, without informing her. According to the Warm Front records, the heating had been fitted.

### Claim

Finally Kelly had enough and filed a claim with the county courts for £20,000, enough to cover the cost of the grant, the additional work she'd had to do and one year's electricity bill. She contacted an independent workman who fitted the heating in three weeks and on Thursday, September 30, she switched on the heating in her own home for the first time in four years.

A spokesperson for Warm Front said: "We understand this has been a distressing time for Mrs Isherwood, and while we have every sympathy for her situation, we feel we have made all reasonable efforts to help."

"This is a highly unusual case, which is currently subject to legal proceedings and as such it would be inappropriate for us to comment further."

The courts met for the first time last week and a decision has yet to be made.

## Malaria ousts paedophile

A PAEDOPHILE from Ashford who spent two years sleeping rough in Africa to evade justice has been found guilty after catching malaria.

Ian Duncan McLeod-McClean, 48, from Canterbury Road, fled to the West African country of Sierra Leone before he was due to stand trial in May 2008.

He spent his time in the country as an illegal immigrant.

He was caught after he contracted a serious bout of malaria and was hospitalised.

Local authorities discovered he was an illegal immigrant and wanted in the UK for a string of sex crimes against three young girls in Maidstone.

Kent police then began the extradition process and he was deported back to Britain where he was arrested at London Heathrow.

On Thursday last week at Maidstone Crown Court Mr McLeod-McClean pleaded guilty to all 23 counts against him.

The court heard how he had forced one of his victims to watch child pornography and carried out sexual acts on a girl of nine. The abuse of his three victims took place over more than a decade.

McLeod-McClean has been remanded in custody until October 28 when he will be sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court.

## Union boss Crow slams MP Green over failure to avert train job cuts



**ATTACK:** RMT Union leader Bob Crow

BOB CROW, the leader of the RMT Union, has accused the town's MP Damian Green of ignoring the needs of train maintenance workers at the Bombardier depot in Chart Leacon.

He said: "Damian Green, as the local MP, owes it to this group of workers in his constituency to make every effort to slam the brakes on the Chart Leacon job cuts."

The company has already begun to hand out redundancy notices to 150 workers at the plant, meaning only a handful will remain to keep the plant ticking over.

Mr Crow said: "The axing of 150 jobs at Bombardier's Chart Leacon depot would be a massive kick in the teeth both for the workforce and for the local economy in that part of Kent. That is why it is essential Mr Green intervenes with the company, even at this late stage, to call a halt to this ill-conceived and unnecessary attack on jobs."

The union says the Bombardier depot at Chart Leacon is a vital part of the local economy and the closure of the main facilities would repre-

sent a massive blow to the area with a financial impact that would be felt well beyond the gates of the site.

Bob Crow added: "We are talking here about a highly skilled workforce with many years of experience who risk being slung on the scrapheap if these cuts are allowed to be bulldozed through."

"With the Government saying that they are committed to a green future for transport there can be no excuse for standing by and watching while essential green jobs on the railways are stripped away."

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**SLOW START:** The construction site where the new Victoria Way is being built was found to be contaminated

# New road is still on track despite the slow start

■ BY ED HILL

CONSTRUCTION managers say the project to build a major new road through the town is still on track despite a slow start.

The new Victoria Way will link Victoria Road with Leacon Road, creating a new through route to the south of the railway line.

Jamie Watson, Kent County Council manager for the project said: "It's not just about building a road, we want to create a street scene of high quality."

The £16.5million street will include a 20mph section close to Victoria Road School, which will incorporate a new square named after John Wallis, the famous Ashford mathematician. At either end of the central section, traffic will be able to travel at 30mph.

The designers hope the new road will spur developers who own land either side of it to start building their own projects.

Managers admit the build programme had a sluggish start when it began in June. The contractors have found the land, which is close to old industrial sites such as the gas works, was more contaminated than they expected.

They have also discovered incorporating the myriad of services under the road such as gas, electricity, telecommunications and water is taking a considerable amount of time.

The project had been expected to be completed in March.

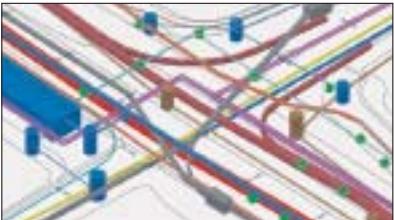
Mr Watson said: "At the moment, our timescale would look more like ending in May, but we hope we will be able to drag that back closer to March. We wanted to get most of the earthworks done before the winter and we are now over the worst part."

Beyond the school, the road will be built on a two-metre embankment. It will also include two large tanks to collect rainwater in a sudden downpour, which will be released into the nearby Great Stour.

Funding for the project comes from central government as Community Infrastructure Funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, and the Department of Transport.

Planners estimate the road will cut traffic on surrounding roads, such as the shared space ring road, by about 10 per cent.

Mr Watson said: "It will mean the road will not have to be dug up as much in the future."



**NEW LOOK:** Designer fencing will add a modern feel above the network of underground service utilities

coming from the southern part of the town."

However, the designers say the main purpose of the road is not to relieve traffic. It is hoped John Wallis Square will mirror Elwick Square on the other side of the railway line as a hub for the community, with trees and new fencing specifically designed to surround the area.

It is also being built to provide many of the services that will be needed when private developers begin their schemes.

Mr Watson said: "It will provide an attractive alternative route to Tenterden if you're

## yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

### X Factor star's big turn-on

ONE of the stars of this year's X Factor will be switching on the Christmas lights at the Designer Outlet in November.

The finalist will be performing on stage before flicking the switch on the outlets lights.

The event will mark the start of the outlet's late-night Christmas shopping until 8pm and will also launch the outlet's free Christmas activities.

The event will start at 6pm and finish with the light switch-on at 8pm.

David Maddison, centre manager, said: "This year's light switch-on is set to be our biggest yet, with live musical performances and the launch of our free family activities.

"We're excited about revealing who our X Factor star will be closer to the launch date and are expecting large crowds turning out to watch them on the night."

For more information, visit [www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com](http://www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com).

### Sheep worth £650 taken

TEN lambs have been stolen from a field off Hampton Lane in Brook.

The white Sharareigh cross Suffolk animals are six months old and worth £650.

The sheep were taken sometime between August 9 and September 27.

Police would like to speak to anyone who may have seen suspicious persons or vehicles in the area during that time.

Call police on 01622 690690 and quote crime reference number FY/15457/10 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

### Copper stolen in break-in

THREE hundred pounds worth of copper bars have been stolen from an electricity substation in Elmsted.

The five square earthing bars were 6ft long and measured 3ins x 1in in cross section.

The bars were taken between August 27 and September 27. The break-in also caused £100 worth of damage.

The site is on the junction of Warehorn Road and Malt House Lane.

If you saw parked cars in the area at that time or have any other information, call police on 01622 690690, quoting crime reference number FY/15467/10 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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# Fan gets completely Lost in four-day cinema sitting

■ BY ED HILL

A 20-YEAR-OLD physics student from Ashford has spent four days in a cinema watching his favourite TV show.

Richard Young joined other fans of the hit American show Lost in London earlier this month.

He said: "It involved going to Leicester Square to the Prince Charles Cinema where we had to watch all the shows continuously. There are 121 episodes and we had a 15-minute break after every six episodes."

In total Mr Young watched 87 hours of Lost over the four days in four and a half hour stretches.

He said: "We had to sleep in the cinema; fortunately the seats were very comfortable. The only time we were able to leave the building was on the scheduled breaks if you did not get back in time you were not allowed back in."

The event described as the UK's first-ever public TV marathon was created to coincide with the release of the show's final episodes on DVD. Paramedics were on hand in case anyone was overcome by the effort.

Mr Young said to make it to the end took real perseverance from hardcore fans.

He said: "It started with about 60, but that dwindled down to 19. That was probably for the best because if there had been any more



**BUG-EYED:** Richard (circled) spent four days in the Prince Charles Cinema in Leicester Square watching the Lost series cabin fever would have set in."

The Losty, as dedicated fans are called, has just started his second year studying physics at the University of Kent. He says he became a fan of the show because of the way it posed questions about the world.

He said: "I really enjoyed the first series because it set up so much. In the fourth series they introduced a lot of physics into the show that grabbed me. Even though a lot of the science is wrong it intrigued me because it posed questions about the nature of the world to the viewer."

The student says the event gave him the chance to make friends with other fans of the show.

He said: "I thought everyone there would be complete nerds, but we were all quite sociable. "You had to make friends if you were there for four days. I don't think there was anyone there seriously watching the programme because we had all seen it before. That gave us the chance to chat and see how people see the programme in different ways."

However, Mr Young says it is now time to concentrate on his studies of the real world rather than the Lost one.

He said: "To be honest I am glad the show is over because it was such a large part of my life for six years. It was a good way to finish it for me."

## Barn owls stolen from Charing coop

THIEVES have taken three young barn owl chicks from a coop in Canterbury Road, Charing on the night of Thursday, September 23.

The chicks are approximately 12 weeks old and 14in high. They are worth an estimated total of £450. All three carried an identification ring on their legs.

One chick has since returned to the coop, but has been too agitated to be handled and identified by its leg ring.

Police say selling and buying of barn owls is regulated by the Government. Unlicensed sale of the birds carries a £5,000 fine. If you have information contact police on 01622 690690 and quote crime reference FY/15324/10 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## OAP is grabbed as robbers raid house

POLICE are on the hunt for two robbers who forced their way into a pensioner's house.

They entered 77-year-old's home on September 29 in Canterbury Road, Charington, after he answered the door.

One of the intruders grabbed the man while the other ran into the house and began a search, but left empty-handed.

The elderly man was not injured.

The men wore balaclavas and it is believed that when they left the house they went up Faversham Road. The incident happened at around 9.45pm.

Contact police on 01622 690690 and quote crime reference FY/15611/10 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### ALWYN KNIGHT



**Q & A**

Reporter Jenny Armstrong speaks to the Reverend Alwyn Knight about his personal experiences of violence while acting as accompaniment for Palestinians in the West Bank in the Middle East.

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your presence, particularly if you belong to the international community with access to the media. People tend to behave better if they know they are being watched and monitored.

**Q What did you experience in Hebron?**

**A** It is a very deeply divided situation because, under international law, the occupation by Israel of the West Bank is illegal and there is a massive military presence in the West Bank. At every point you confront Israeli tanks, soldiers, aircraft and helicopters.

There is a lot of pressure, uniquely in Hebron, as a lot of Israeli settlers live in the old city. There are about 400 of them protected by perhaps 500 Israeli military. If you are a Palestinian living in the West Bank, you are living under military occupation and martial law applies.

There is a lot of harassment and violence from settlers. Most of the men carry guns and even the children can be quite violent. They think they have a God-given right to be there at the place of Abraham. It can be very daunting for Palestinians.

**Q Was it dangerous?**

**A** I have been caught up in violent situations. I have a few scars. The settlers act quite irrationally and with no sense of humanity, particularly in Hebron itself. I was out one day

when settlers appeared, masked and carrying heavy staves. Their intent was to chase Palestinian shepherds. I was there with a colleague and we got caught up in the mêlée. One of the sad outcomes was that the Israelis killed one of the donkeys that was with the shepherds.

**Q How did the Palestinians cope?**

**A** With remarkable dignity, and with a sense of humour, very often. The vast majority did so with non-violent resistance. They resist the occupation, but few resort to violence.

**Q What is the solution?**

**A** There are peace talks underway, again, but no Palestinian I know is holding their breath because both Palestine and Israel are divided societies.

The best hope is that President Obama says enough is enough. America has to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from the occupation. Many Palestinians and Israelis who are committed to a peaceful resolution, and building bridges between the communities.

Reverend Knight lives in Tenterden and gave a talk about his experiences to the East Kent Justice for Palestinians group. The next meeting is at 7.30pm tomorrow in St Paul's Church Hall, Church Street, Canterbury with speaker Julian Brazier MP on the Middle East crisis.

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GO WITH THE FLOW: The Stour has problems

## RSPB urgent call for better waterways

THE RSPB is urging the Environment Agency to speed up its plans to improve the area's rivers.

They say the River Stour, which runs through the borough, has problems with high levels of phosphates in its waters.

Steve Gilbert, RSPB conservation programme manager, said: "There are many pressures on our waterways and the life they support. We have to do all we can to protect these vital wildlife habitats."

The Environment Agency has drawn up River Basin management plans to deal with the problems facing Kent's waterways.

They hope the new plan will improve water quality by 2015.

Mr Gilbert said: "The Environment Agency are now moving from investigation to action, which is a huge step forward. For many of our water bodies we have clear identification of the problems, the solutions required and who is responsible for taking them forward."

A recent Environment Agency assessment listed 26 per cent of rivers as 'Good' status. This means 74 per cent of rivers are failing, including 117 rivers which are classified as 'Bad', making them among the worst in Europe.

# New plaque unveiled to founder of twin town

■ BY ED HILL

THE historic link between Ashford and the American town of Hopewell was recognised this week with the unveiling of a plaque in North Street.

The brass sign commemorates Francis Epes, who was born in Ashford in 1579. The adventurer travelled to America on a trip funded by Elizabeth I on the ship the Hopewell in 1624.

His journey took him to an Indian settlement on the Appomattox River in Virginia.

There he founded a plantation and began to build what was to become a new town named after the ship in which he travelled.

Mark Whitling, chair of the Friends of the Hopewell Association, said: "This is recognition of the link between our two communities. Francis Epes is really the reason we are here. We have a strong historical connection."

The new plaque is mounted on the wall of number 13 North Street, where Epes is said to have been born. Although not the original house, the Georgian property is now the home of Clague architectural practice.

A memorial headstone to Epes also stands in the grounds of St Mary's church to this day.

The unveiling coincides with guests from the Hopewell Twinning Association in America visiting the town. The group are on their biannual



UNVEILING: The plaque to Francis Epes is unveiled at the site of the adventurer's former home in North Street

trip to the borough staying with members of the friends association.

Their time in Kent will include a visit to the Tenterden Folk Festival and a farewell dinner in Westenhanger Castle near Hythe.

Relatives of Francis Epes still live in Ashford to this day. The Friends of Hopewell meet every fourth Monday of the month at the Downtown Diner in Ashford.

Ties with the American town first started in 1993 and the twinning association was formerly

recognized by Ashford council in 1999.

Mr Whitling said: "Hopewell is a very nice town which the people are proud of. It was my first visit last year. The hospitality we were shown was second to none. It's nice we can repay them this year and cement the relationship. The most important thing is we have a social week together which we owe to Francis Epes."

To find out more about the Friends of Hopewell Association, and how to become a member call Mark Whitling on 07900 263620.

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# Countess supports Green campaign

COUNTESS Mountbatten of Burma has signed a petition against the development of Chilmington Green.

The countess signed last week and has written a letter of objection to council planners.

Max Frohnsdorff said: "Much to my surprise and delight the Countess phoned me to say she fully supports us."

"Her support is a tremendous boost to our campaign to preserve the countryside and heritage of this beautiful area for future generations."

■ BY ED HILL

Lady Pamela Hicks, who lives in Mersham, is a great granddaughter of Queen Victoria and was a bridesmaid at the Queen's wedding. She still has strong ties with Prince Charles and other senior members of the Royal Family.

The 81-year-old, who lost her father Lord Louis Mountbatten when he was killed by a bomb planted by the IRA, has just announced she is currently writing her memoirs.

The Chilmington campaigners have highlighted a recent example in Bath where a large development was cancelled after the



LENDING SUPPORT: Countess Mountbatten of Burma

new coalition Government scrapped Labour housing targets.

The urban extension is part of Ashford council's Core Strategy housing programme. It hopes to build 7,000 homes and create 1,000

jobs in the new town over the next two decades.

Mr Frohnsdorff said: "The council and developers are trying to convince us that the core strategy is law, when it is only a policy document."

"Contrary to what the council says, the core strategy can be reversed as it was in Bath."

"Exactly like Chilmington Green, a green-field urban extension was to be forced on a tiny rural community outside Bath under the central diktats of the Labour regime."

"This precedent proves that the development of Chilmington Green is not inevitable simply because it is in the Core Strategy."

"There are vast reserves of brown field land and almost 1,400 empty houses in Ashford that could be regenerated to accommodate growth and breathe new life into the town centre."

"It is not necessary to concrete over the countryside; it is time to fundamentally rethink Ashford's need for housing and development strategy."

A government announcement on how local councils will be able to create local partnerships to build new housing is expected later this month.



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SWEET MUSIC: The Greatstone Senior Singers with Eldercare Day Centre clients and Diana Tritton

## Pals celebrate 25 years with a smile and a song

THE Eldercare Day Centre in Ashford and the Greatstone Senior Singers group both celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversaries on Friday.

Greatstone Senior Singers were formed in 1985 by a group of active retired friends with a love for singing and entertaining.

The Day Centre first opened its doors to serve the senior citizens of Ashford on the same day in the same year.

### Entertainers

The Singers, a non-profit making community group, were formed by Muriel Burrows, who is now aged 85 and still sings with them. Their ages range from 60 to 91 years of the oldest member, Vera Rutledge.

The group entertains at schools and community centres throughout south and east Kent and parts of Sussex.

They regularly entertain the clients at the day centre with their programme, which consists of fun and interaction, with songs from the 20s to the 80s and comedy sketches.

The shared Silver Jubilee presented an opportunity for everyone to have a get-together at the day centre.

### Appreciated

Diana Tritton, day centre manager, said: "The Greatstone Singers have often entertained us over the years and are much appreciated by clients and staff."

"It was extremely pleasing that we were able to share such a significant anniversary together."

For further information on the Greatstone Senior Singers, visit [www.greatstonesingers.org.uk](http://www.greatstonesingers.org.uk), or telephone Jean on 01303 872520.

# Karl's TV tour is bordering on stupidity

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

THE verbal punchbag of comedian Ricky Gervais admits he really would be stupid to agree to a second series of *An Idiot Abroad*.

Karl Pilkington – who achieved cult status as the deadpan producer of Gervais's podcast show – is now a star in his own right thanks to the eight-part Sky1 documentary, which continues this week.

But despite the show giving him the chance to visit all Seven Wonders of the World in the space of just a few weeks, the 38-year-old, who has a home in Deal, Kent, admits there were few highlights he will take from the trip.

"The Taj Mahal was the best and the pyramids were the worst," he said. "Chichen Itza was a bit of nothing, really. The Great Wall of China? It's just a joke because a lot of it isn't even that old – it was restored in 1985 or something. It's like a lot of Wimpey homes in the '80s – you look at the brick and think, I could have bought that from Homebase."

"And I'm not dissing religion or anything but I didn't get Christ the Redeemer. It's just a statue."

"The highest point, literally, would have to be Machu Picchu. But the real high point would be completing the journey, being at Heathrow airport after the last trip and going, 'I've done it.' It made me realise how happy I am with what I have."

Despite being described by Gervais as a "little round-headed buffoon", Manchester-born Pilkington, who lives in Deal, is actually a respected producer in the radio world and was once head of production at Xfm.

Yet his unintentionally hilarious views on



SMALL WORLD: Karl on street in Mexico

the world have won him an army of fans, most of whom are revelling in the torture he was put through by Gervais and his comedy sidekick Stephen Merchant in *An Idiot Abroad*.

Pilkington said that despite being the butt of the pair's constant jokes on the show, he was confident he handled starring in it better than either of his friends would have.

"Steve might have been able to do a bit of it, but Ricky not at all," he said. "Even though I went through all this, I feel like the winner because I've done things he'll never do."

"He can keep his awards; I've been around the world. If I go to a party – which I won't – I've got more stuff to talk about."

"There's only so many times you can say 'Look at this award, everyone.' But, if you go 'have you ever had a poo in a tent? Have you ever had your leg set on fire? Have you been chased by bees?' That's the thing I'll take away from it all."

• Episode three of *An Idiot Abroad* can be seen on Sky1 at 9pm tomorrow (Thursday).

## Green seeks end to 'damaging and futile' indefinite migrant detention

IMMIGRATION minister Damian Green has set up an asylum improvements project to try to reduce the amount of time illegal immigrants are locked up in detention centres.

The Ashford MP said the plan was to stop the indeterminate sentence of migrants, as seen at the Dover Immigration Removal Centre, by getting their cases heard more quickly.

Mr Green was speaking after the release of a report by the London Detainee Support Group, No Return, No Release, No Reason, which claimed the indefinite detention of immigrants who cannot be deported is "ineffective, inefficient and enormously damaging".

The study revealed two-thirds of migrants held in detention centres – costing the taxpayer £68,000 per migrant per year – are never deported.

Authors of the report stated this was not cost-effective and had a detrimental effect on the mental health of detainees who had no idea how long they would be held before they

were either deported or granted the right to stay. In the Dover centre, which has space for 314 adult males, a study carried out in April revealed there were 20 individuals in 2009/10 locked up for more than a year.

Mr Green said: "The reason why most immigrants are detained for such long periods is because they have to go through the judicial system and make legal representations," he said.

"In some cases Britain can't return them to their home country because it is too dangerous. But most of these people have no legal right to be in this country and have to be removed. Some do return home voluntarily, which is better."

Mr Green, said conditions at Dover had reportedly improved. Jerome Phelps, director of the London Detainee Support Group, said the UK is one of very few countries in Europe that still detains people with no time limit.

"Indefinite detention is futile, expensive and immensely damaging, so we are launching a campaign to end this unacceptable practice," he said.



BIT OF NOTHING, REALLY: Pilkington visited the Mayan pyramids at Chichen Itza, Mexico, for *An Idiot Abroad*

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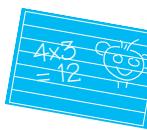
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## BREAK TIME

### Ladies put their feet up at charity event

THE Caldecott Foundation School opened its doors this week for an evening of pampering.

The event was held on Friday at the charity's school in Station Road, Smeeth.

At the women only night guests were able to enjoy Indian head massages, body massages, manicures and pedicures.

A clairvoyant was also on hand and visitors were able to buy cakes, bags, jewellery, clothing and handmade crafts.

A raffle was also held with prizes including Eurotunnel tickets and a night out at Folkestone racecourse.

The money raised during the evening will go towards a new vocational education unit at the school.

The Caldecott Foundation cares and educates children who have suffered neglect and abuse.

It will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

For more information visit [www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk](http://www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk).

### School's jazz band top of Times table

THE Norton Knatchbull School's Big Band has been awarded The Times Educational Supplement Jazz award.

The group was given the prize when it performed in this year's National Festival final in July this year.

It was one of 20 groups performing at the finals held at the City Hall in Birmingham.

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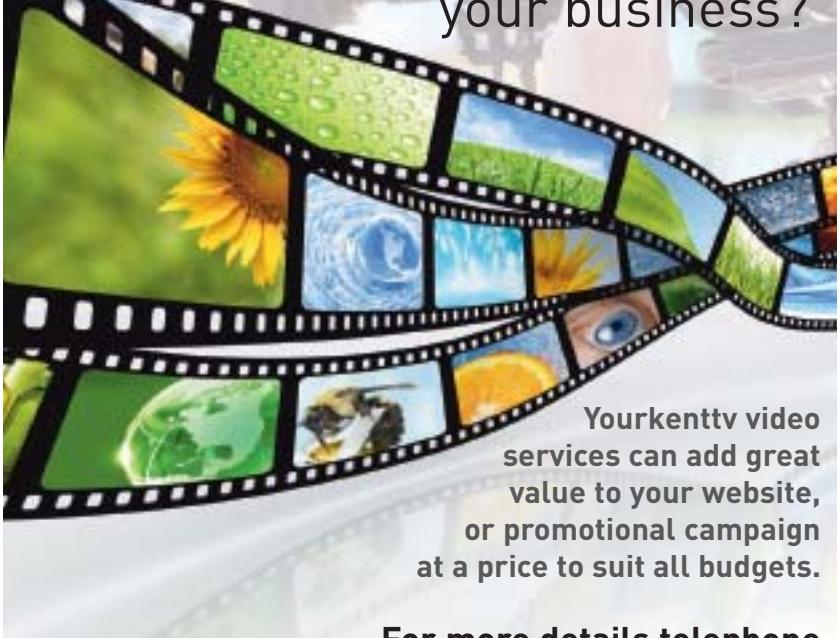


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## YOUR LETTERS

### We council workers also pay our taxes

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It would also be good if you looked at your council tax bills and saw how much actually comes to your local council. Councils don't just empty the bins.

I agree strike action is not the answer. With the economic climate the way it is everyone will suffer.

Not all council workers have high pay and low output. Some work hard and earn an average wage, just like the private sector.

Vickie Hewson, by email

### It's time for action on ailing waterways

With only five per cent of rivers in England and Wales described as being in a pristine condition, the Environment Agency is setting in motion management plans to improve the quality of our waterways.

Our waterways are a valuable resource that support a range of wildlife. However, they face a variety of pressures including run-off pollution from fertilisers and poorly designed urban drainage; invasive species such as signal crayfish and American mink; and low water levels caused by over abstraction.

There are many pressures on our waterways and the life they support. We have to do all we can to protect these vital wildlife habitats and ensure people can continue to enjoy them. River basin management plans have been drawn up to tackle these issues and are now being put into action.

The South East River Basin District covers over 10,000 square kilometres, and includes east Kent, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, and East and West Sussex. Ninety-nine water bodies – rivers, reservoirs and estuaries – have been prioritised for action between now and 2015.

Kent has a number of water bodies identified for improvement. Parts of the River Darent suffer from diminished fish numbers; the River Medway suffers from diminished invertebrate numbers; and the River Stour suffers from excessive levels of phosphates.

The RSPB, along with other voluntary conservation bodies, is urging the EA to implement the programme urgently and to work with partners to deliver results.

The EA is now moving from investigation to action, which is a huge step forward.

For many of our water bodies we have clear identification of the problems, the solutions required and who is responsible for taking them forward.

Steve Gilbert, RSPB  
conservation programme manager

# yourblogger

Ian MacMillan explains why bankers nowadays aren't what they used to be



**GOBSMACKED** is a word I was unused to when it made its way into the lexicon of common parlance back in the 90s, but it is a useful word.

I write as someone who worked in banking for 32 years and, indeed, passed all my banking exams and was so well qualified that I was in the top 50 out of 20,000 so qualified in the early 70s. I gained one of only five distinctions awarded in monetary theory.

Then, following deregulation, matters took a turn for the worse.

No more Captain Mainwaring's little branch in an idyllic small town, which we all looked forward to.

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As good at house purchase as any building society, as expert at insurance as any broker. As for wills, we could do it – or pretend to.

'Jack of all trades and master of none' was the appropriate line and, where once bankers had provable expertise, customers were now in the hands of those with the gift of the gab and targets to make to secure bonuses.

Not wishing to be part of this Brave New World, I asked customers for the leaflets they had and, quickly scanning them, knew almost as much as they did.

As I'm in receipt of a pension for doing zilch apart from criticise, I must not bite the hand that feeds me too much – but does anyone remember the Office of Fair Trading's ruling that bank charges were tantamount to theft?

You know, £75 for going overdrawn for a day and, in my

daughter's case, despite having plenty of funds in another account.

And then fat-cat lawyers sided with fat-cat bankers to make this theft quasi-legal. Apart from seething, what can Joe Public do? Well, nothing.

If the OFT is toothless, then there's no hope for little old me and you. And this is where that word gobsmacked seems most appropriate.

Yes, the independence of the judiciary is something to be cherished, but the fact that justice is up for sale to the highest bidder is something to be less sanguine about.

I once thought that the average bank clerk was innocent of this negation of ethical behaviour, but I've since changed my mind.

Visiting a bank in Canterbury and waiting to be served, I noticed employees behind screens talking about their holidays and noshing their lunch.

Another one, presumably working, was leaning over one of the said screens and occasionally looking back at those waiting to be served.

Eventually I was seen to and it was something of a contest of contempt. His 'How dare you demand to be served' against my 'How dare you be so condescending about eventually dealing with a customer'.

I reckon bankers have adopted a siege mentality akin to those Millwall fans who chant "No one likes us – we don't care". And indeed, why should they care? The bankers, I mean.

Immune to the OFT recommendations and enjoying their bonuses, they appear to be able to put two fingers up to the rest of us with impunity.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, Gareth Arnold, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourashford.co.uk](http://www.yourashford.co.uk).



ED MILIBAND: Labour Party leader

### Battle for Britain is lost 70 years later

Ed Miliband is the new Labour leader, so it's back to the days when the unions ruled the party. It will keep Labour out of power for a decade at least.

The joke about the Labour conference was that they were telling this insipid coalition Government how to save the economy, yet they are responsible for the mess we are in.

As for the unions, they are flexing their muscles, ruining everyone holiday plans so members can keep their freebies, and threatening massive disruption if the Government makes any cuts.

Yet where were they when British

companies and their shareholders were sacking workers and replacing them with cheap foreign labour? Nowhere. They couldn't be seen being non-PC and anti-foreigner – it was better for them to see British subjects suffer. The unions could have done a lot of good stopping the evil side of capitalism.

In Kent we have farmers refusing to employ Britons and factories in Sittingbourne doing the same.

They have the regular excuses: we only deal with agency workers; Britons do not want the jobs, they are too lazy; the British want too much money and a 40-hour week.

Yet the truth is they make a bigger profit with foreigner workers. This is called greed.

These companies do not even consider their fellow Britons, they are there to be trodden on and left to live in squalor and hunger. Having your own business is not just about profit. It is by helping yourself, you can help your fellow countrymen. Now we have an open door to benefits tourists. The EU has warned Britain it can't stop thousands more migrants claiming welfare handouts.

If the Tories had honoured their pledges and got rid of this terrible Human Rights Act we would not be in this mess and this coalition Government tell us they will prevent it happening – and pigs might fly. When will the British stand up against this EU dictatorship? We are honouring the people of the Battle of Britain for saving us from a European

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waters and the first step is to continue improving water quality. He said there was still a long way to go but anglers will work with other organisations to help achieve it. Mr Lloyd said the Environment Agency should be reformed to shift its focus to regulation rather than delivery of objectives.

Concluding the reception, John Swift, chief executive of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation reviewed the work of Labour over its time in government. He highlighted the positive work of politicians such as Martin Salter, Ben Bradshaw and Paddy Tipping on issues including firearms legislation, tail docking, pest control and game licences.

BASC members come from all political and economic backgrounds, Mr Swift said. He warned that many people who shoot will be affected by spending cuts. He said BASC was prepared to work with Labour to achieve benefits for shooting and for the wider rural environment and economy.

Debbie Collins, by email

### Register to ensure referendum vote

There is already quite a lot of interest in the Government's proposal to hold a referendum throughout the UK on the voting system we use to elect MPs. This is due to take place on May 5, 2011, when there will also be local government elections in some parts of England. Now is the time for your readers to make sure they have filled in and returned the annual forms they will have received through the post, to make sure they are on the electoral register.

You can even request a postal vote now, so that no matter where you'll be on polling day, you won't miss your chance to have your say. Visit [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk) for information about the annual canvass and forthcoming elections and referendums.

Peter Wardle, chief executive, Electoral Commission

### All they need is love

I am going to scream if I hear any more claims that more children are special needs and the blame put on teachers. The main culprits are the parents, a lot are too young to have a child, or to know how to start the teaching process at home in the first five years. No preparation is given to children in many families. They don't read to their children, or talk to them.

Teachers have a tough job. They are expected to be social workers and are not allowed to discipline children. Many youngsters start school with behavioural problems. Yes, many have needs, but not special needs. Children need good parents who will love them, feed them, teach them and care for them. Many do not get this because the mothers are not mature enough to look after themselves, let alone bring up a child.

C Russell, by email

# More obese patients opt for weight loss surgery

■ BY MARIJKE COX

THE number of obese people being put forward for weight loss surgery on the NHS has rocketed in Kent over the last three years.

Last year, NHS West Kent referred 115 patients to the Morbid Obesity Single Patient Funding Panel – a massive increase of 203 per cent from 2007–08 – while NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent did the same for 113 patients, an increase of 163 per cent.

Many of those put forward would have been deemed suitable for bariatric (weight loss) surgery including gastric band operations and gastric bypasses, which cost an average of £10,000 per patient.

Nationally, the number has risen from just 238 a decade ago to almost 7,000 in 2008.

However, Maidstone GP and British Medical Association spokesman Dr Paul Hobday said it was inevitable uptake rates of a fairly new procedure would increase dramatically.

"It's only really gone up so much because the figures started from zero," he said. "But there are so many obstacles put in people's way before they are approved – like exercise programmes, dieting and psychologists – that most of the people who get the surgery absolutely deserve it."



"From a GP's point of view it's not available enough. It's easy to say people shouldn't eat as much, but the problem needs to be tackled."

Gastric banding involves reducing the size of the stomach by fitting a band around it, while a gastric bypass re-routes food to a small stomach pouch created by surgeons.

A third procedure, used less frequently, removes a portion of the stomach.

Mike Lander, morbid obesity lead commissioner for the South East, said bariatric surgery was a last resort for patients who have been unable to lose weight by conventional means, or who have a body mass index above a certain level.

NHS trusts in Kent have snubbed recommendations from a national health advisor to pay obese people to lose weight, even though almost a quarter are obese. The National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE), an independent organisation set up by Government to issue health guidance, said incentives such as cash, could be an effective way to help people diet and give up smoking.

But Kent's three primary care trusts have said paying people to lose weight is not the way to tackle Kent and Medway's obesity problem.

The NICE report into incentive-driven health schemes, which invites members of the public to give their opinion, is available at [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk).

He added: "Each patient will only be considered if all other ways to lose weight have been tried for at least 12 months."

The figures obtained by KOS Media through a Freedom of Information Act request date back to the establishment of the patient funding panel in July, 2006.

From then to the following March, only 14 people were referred by West Kent and just five by Eastern and Coastal.

Richard D North, a spokesman for right wing think tank the Social Affairs Unit, said it was probably cheaper for overweight people to undergo bariatric surgery than it would be to fund their long-term health problems.

## Experts warn of pensions crisis

A PENSIONS panic is on the horizon with the number of Kent workers reaching retirement age set to rise by nearly a fifth.

This year about 32,700 people turned 65 across the county, but that figure is expected to jump to 38,700 by the time the Olympics come to town in 2012.

Four Kent districts – Dartford, Sevenoaks, Canterbury and Maidstone – are all set for increases of more than 20 per cent, with experts warning the cost of paying for so many state pensions will place an even greater strain on public finances.

Across the county the number of pensioners will rise by an estimated 18 per cent.

In an average year about 650,000 people celebrate their 65th birthday, but this is due to rise to 800,000 in 2012 due to the post-war baby boom.

Pensions expert Dr Ros Altmann, director-general of the Folkestone-based Saga group, said: "More and more pensioners are coming through every year and it's something successive Governments have failed to plan for."

Proposals currently being considered by the Government to tackle the problem include bringing forward increases to the state pension age and allowing people to work past it, should they wish to continue earning a full-time wage.

Kent's ageing population is also creating challenges for Kent County Council, which provides a range of services for elderly people including sheltered accommodation and active life projects.

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WARNING: Amanda Thomas fears an outbreak

## Cholera still a threat to UK, claims author

DEADLY diseases may still exist in Kentish waters despite having laid dormant for hundreds of years, warns the author of a new book on cholera.

Hundreds of people died when an outbreak of the infection, thought to have been caused by poor living conditions near the River Thames in Lambeth, south London, swept through the county in the mid-19th century.

But despite only 35 cases of cholera having been reported in Europe since 2000, Amanda Thomas – author of the Lambeth Cholera Outbreak of 1848-1849 – is warning that people should not be complacent about its existence.

She said: "I'd be surprised if it still exists in the Thames because of all the cleansing work carried out there."

"I don't think cholera has left our shores so we must be careful. It won't be terrorists or another big war that kills the human race; it will be some sort of epidemic."

Cholera is an intestinal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. It causes a painless, watery diarrhoea that can quickly lead to severe dehydration and death if treatment is not promptly given.

The Lambeth Cholera Outbreak of 1848-49 is available now, priced £37.95 through Amazon.

# Kent/Essex serious crime fighting team 'making an impact'

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

KENT Police have lauded the early success of a new serious crime partnership with Essex despite it being 18 months away from being fully operational.

Based in Northfleet, near Gravesend, the Serious Crime Directorate tackles big-league offenders causing problems in both counties such as armed robbery gangs, drug smugglers and serial car thieves.

And although the new division will not be fully implemented until April 2012, the man in charge – Kent's Assistant Chief Constable Alan Pughley – believes the early signs are promising.

### Successful

He said: "The message at the moment is that the Serious Crime Directorate is here and is having a real impact on the people who cause us the most harm."

"Once all the other departments are finalised, we will be more successful than we already have been in the short time the command structure has been in place."

"To deliver what it has in a period of transition is outstanding. When that transition has finished, we'll be better than ever."

The Kent and Essex forces agreed to team up in the new initiative because of the similar

problems faced by both, as well as their broadly similar numbers and organisation.

Mr Pughley says that since the beginning of September the directorate has solved 60 offences. These include crimes tackled as part of Operations Pint and Julius, both of which involved London thieves stealing high-value cars from businesses in Kent and Essex.

"It makes a huge difference having police from both forces working side-by-side in the same room on the same problems," said Mr Pughley.

"When you're investigating a particular crime you should always do a national check to see if any other force is too, but there would have been occasions in the past when two sets of people were looking at the same thing."

"The new partnership means we can also work with the Metropolitan Police in a much more cohesive way."

Last month Chief Constable Ian Learmonth revealed that Kent Police may lose 1,500 jobs if its budget is cut by 20 per cent in the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), which will be published on October 20.

However, Mr Pughley said he was confident



PROMISING: Asst Chief Con Alan Pughley is encouraged by early results in the Kent/Essex Police collaboration

the new directorate would escape relatively unscathed.

He said: "I think the CSR will affect policing universally but we are in a very strong position in that both the Chief Constable and the Kent Police Authority are supportive of such a dedicated unit."

"I think the future is secure but what we've got to make sure of is that we are as efficient and effective as we can be."

"Some of the work done by bringing the two forces together in this way has already allowed us to look at how we can do things differently, and I'm sure as we work through the process we will find other ways to make savings."

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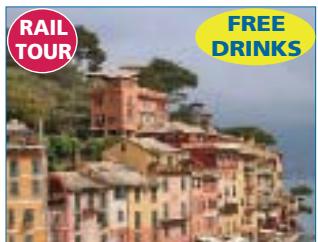
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**42YR old** stunning blonde nurse looking to share a bottle of good wine, relax and whatever follows with a tall professional male. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347345

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**ISABELLE** lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305

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**YOUNG** 52y old attractive, slim blonde, N/S, easygoing, enjoys most things, seeks N/S genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340787

**LINDA** larger lady 61, seeks male for company and time out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340701

**JANE** 40's, beautiful, slim blonde with blue eyes, friendly and eager to please searching for romance with tall, attractive, slim man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340281

**CLADYS** sensual, loving, short hair likes cooking, seeks Christian gent with no ties for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340205

**JENNY** 38, petite, bubbly, blue eyed babe, always on the go, WLTM unattached male to meet for romance and with tall, attractive, slim man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340287

**64YR old** female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581

**LINDA** larger lady 61, likes tv, gardening, seeks male for time out and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340253

**SEDUCTIVE** saucy lady 39, curvaceous and fun, seeks happy go lucky male for fun and attention. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342525

**DOROTHY** 70's, 5ft, fair hair, likes coast, Chinese food, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342451

**JANICE** 39, voluptuous, bubbly, long dark hair, green eyes, beautiful, confident, seeks tall hunk guy for discreet fun times/more. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341319

**KAREN** 34, sexy leggy brunette who knows there's more to life than just work! WLTM confident professional male for time off meetings in London and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342195

**KATHY** 41, saucy redhead with fabulous curves, loves rock music, looking for smart tall dark guy to pamper and be looked after in return. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341315

**KATHY** 40, sexy leggy brunette who knows there's more to life than just work! WLTM confident professional male for time off meetings in London and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341313

**ANNE** 42, cheeky, curvy brunnette, very affectionate and up for anything, seeks tall hunk guy for fun times and more. Discretion required. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341293

**MICHELLE** 43, long curly brown hair, sparkly green eyes, lovely figure, easy-going and affectionate, WLTM nice male for loving relationship. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337853

**LATE** 60's female, widow, slim, 5ft 3ins, young at heart, GSOH, N/S, likes 60's music, likes keep fit, music, books, sells gent for friendship and outings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342195

**KATHERINE** 43, petite, brown eyed Brunette seeks slim male with dark hair for some serious fun and passion. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342507

**KELLY** 29, beautiful, sexy, Brunette with lovely curves seeks sincere, attractive male for fun nights out, cosy nights in, TLC, romance and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342503

**LINDA** funny, witty, curvy, fair hair, hazel eyes WLTM tall slim guy with nice smile who understands women for some really good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342503

**NATALIA** attractive, Brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340951

**SLIM** attractive 60yr old female, GSOH, N/S, seeks male, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341451

**TRACEY** 61, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, drinks, seeks sincere similar aged male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342027

**BEAUTIFUL** blue eyed babe, 23, stunning figure, seeks older male to enjoy fun times only. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344205

**YOUNG** 42, pretty, funny and unique, loves cosy nights in, seeks attractive male for intimate relationships with lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342405

**VERY** pretty vivacious blue eyed blonde, 39, loves life, seeks tall, intelligent guy for intimate conversations, fun and romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342477

**KERRY** 39, independent curly Brunette, sensual, tactile, loves cuddles and kisses, seeks cheeky, spontaneous guy to keep her company make her smile again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340283

**TRACEY** 45, sexy Scorpio, tattooed, petite, affectionate, likes music, comedy, cinema, seeks tall, medium build, tattooed, easygoing male, 45-48 with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341045

**MICHELLE** 39, blue eyed blonde bombshell, beautiful curves, discreet, enjoys male company, seeks romantic male who likes the simple things in life too. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341289

**YOUNG** looking 61yr old Pisces lady, medium build, likes seaside, country walks, out, nights in, country fairs, seeks likeminded caring male for friendship, maybe more. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340873

**JEN** 52, likes walks, meals out, dancing, cinema, seeks down to earth male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341027

**PETITE** female, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks genuine guy for company, fun, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340915

**JENNY** 5ft 4ins, black hair, green eyes, size 12-14, likes cinema, nights out, dancing, gardening, walks, holidays, seeks tall, slim male, 40's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337817

**ACTIVE** young 42y old female, size 12, voluptuous, seeks tall, athletic male with big personality for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340276

**NICK** 43, petite blonde, green eyes, seeks slim positive, caring, lady, 58-63. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347469

**MARX** 36, average build, brown hair, blue eyes, easygoing, reliable, caring, GSOH, shy, N/S, no ties, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347417

**JAMES** 5ft 8ins, slim-medium build, attractive, likes gym, meals out, cinema, seeks tall, slim male, 40's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347353

**NICK** 40, brown/haired eyes, 5ft 6ins, slim, GSOH, genuine, honest, likes good times, seeks honest female, 28-40 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340167

**NICE** young 50yr old woman, likes animals, walks, seeks genuine, retired gent, 51-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347297

**GORGEOUS** Italian white guy, early 40's, seeks tall, dark lady, any age for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341265

**FED** up with dull and boring, not over their ex. Dark haired male, fit, charismatic, seeks slim, white female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347857

**DANNY** 57, affectionate, romantic, GSOH, likes music, theatre, walks, holidays, meals out, seeks slim, elegant lady, 50-65 with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347269

**BEAUTIFUL** exotic, very petite female, 44, loves to cook romantic meals in, seeks loving male to share relaxing nights with good wine, great company and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337855

**ATTRACTIVE** professional female, young 28, good figure, likes reading, walks, cooking, arts, seeks tall, professional male, 60-65, Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340069

**GLADYS** sensual, loving, short hair likes cooking, seeks Christian gent with no ties for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340205

**64YR old** female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581

**LINDA** larger lady 61, likes tv, gardening, seeks male for time out and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340253

**GILL** statuesque beauty, tactile, sun loving Brunette, seeks very tall, well built male who's looking for an uncomplicated relationship with a real woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340253

**MICHELLE** 43, long curly brown hair, sparkly green eyes, lovely figure, easy-going and affectionate, WLTM nice male for loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347709

**TALL** fit, active male, 55, light haired, passionate for Christian faith, seeks female 43 or younger for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342241

**OLDER** lady 60 plus, sought by slim, attractive, professional male, 45 for discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347705

**MALE** seeks nice, attractive female with good personality for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347663

**JOHN** 33, shy, likes nights in/out, pubs, clubs, cinema, meals out, football, music, seeks kind, caring female for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 343832

**CARING** female, 63, 5ft 4ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks loving male, 60-70 for companionship and lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341451

**TALL** 60's female, widow, likes walks, meals out, history, moving to area, seeks gent for friendship initially, much in return. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342973

**WIDOW** late 60's, likes art, Spanish history, moving to area, seeks gent for friendship initially, much in return. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 343879

**JOHN** 56, slim-medium build, 5ft 10ins, likes most things, GSOH, looking for new best mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347577

**MICHELLE** mid 60's, likes sports, walks, cinema, theatre, N/S, GSOH, seeks lady, 55-60 with similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341199

**PROFESSIONAL** Indian male, N/S, 5ft 7ins, medium build, 50+, young outlook, seeks white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341533

**TALL** mature, attractive male, seeks slim petite, naughty but nice, Asian/Oriental lady for fun and friendship. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340235

**33YR old** widower, 6ft, brown eyes, black hair, slim, retired, warm hearted, open minded, affectionate, loving, sincere, car owner, seeks female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347489

**MICHAEL** mid 60's, likes sports, walks, cinema, theatre, N/S, GSOH, seeks lady, 55-60 with similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341533

**SEXY** tall, dark, handsome male, 36, seeks lively, sexy lady to share fun times maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347897

**JOHN** likes gym, parts, seeks busy female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347829

**MICHAEL** mid 60's, likes sports, walks, cinema, theatre, N/S, GSOH, seeks lady, 55-60 with similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341199

**PROFESSIONAL** Indian male, N/S, 5ft 7ins, medium build, 50+, young outlook, seeks white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341533

**TALL** mature, attractive male, seeks slim petite, naughty but nice, Asian/Oriental lady for fun and friendship. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340235

**34YR old** widower, 6ft, brown eyes, black hair, slim, retired, warm hearted, open minded, affectionate, loving, sincere, car owner, seeks female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347489

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**DAY & NIGHT****Night in the Shadows**

TAKE a musical tour through the career of the Shadows when a top tribute band visits Tenterden.

The Bootleg Shadows return to the Sinden Theatre at 7.30pm on Saturday to perform some of the band's best-loved hits, from Apache to Wonderful Land. Tickets cost £14. To book call 01580 763826 or visit [www.sindentheatre.biz](http://www.sindentheatre.biz).

**Classic art on display**

ORIGINAL prints by James Barry and his contemporaries are on display at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

Works by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Mortimer and Fuseli can also be seen at Studio 3 Gallery in the Jarman Building from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, until December 17. Admission is free. For details call 01227 827228.

**Holby star in concert**

A VERY special concert will be held at the parish church at Boughton-under-Blean at 7pm on Saturday.

Holby City star Tish Potter and organist Stuart Neame will perform songs they have played at celebrity weddings.

Tickets are £10/£5 from Boughton Post Office, the Fleur de Lis in Faversham and Judy Collins on 01227 751742.

**Jazz moves to theatre**

LIVE jazz continues in Folkestone this week with a performance by the Pete Abbott Sound on Thursday.

After moving from The Grand, the weekly Thursday jazz nights can still be enjoyed at the Tower Theatre in Shornecliffe.

To book tickets call 01303 277175.

**Supper at brewery**

INDULGE in some tasty tipples at Shepherd Neame in Faversham with a traditional Ale Samplers' Supper.

Friday's event includes a tutored tasting, evening tour of the brewery and two-course meal in the Visitor Centre bar. Tickets cost £24.50. To find out more email [tours@shepherdneame.co.uk](mailto:tours@shepherdneame.co.uk) or call 01795 542016.

**Teacher sings the blues**

BLUES artist Roger Sutcliffe will be appearing at Faversham Folk Club next Wednesday.

The music and geology teacher is also a professional singer and guitarist. He will be playing at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street, Faversham, at 8.30pm.

Admission costs £5 for members, £6 for non-members and is free for under-18s. For details call 01795 536857.

**Frankenstein on stage**

A MONSTER will be unleashed at the Tower Theatre in Shornecliffe as the FHODS Youth Section presents Frankenstein.

Adapted from Mary Shelley's novel, the macabre and humorous tale is suitable for all ages. Frankenstein runs from Thursday to Saturday. Tickets are £8/£7 from the box office on 01303 223925 or visit [www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk](http://www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk).

# Characters come alive at Anifest

**CANTERBURY ANIFEST**

Friday, October 8, and Saturday, October 9  
Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury

GET animated this week when the university hosts this year's celebration of a special art form.

The Canterbury Anifest will be bigger and better than ever, with two days of workshops, talks, screenings and competitions. There will be special guests in the form of dynamic clay duo Wallace and Gromit, along with other celebrities and professionals in the animation field.

The festival is being run by Animate and Create, which was awarded the contract by Canterbury City Council. Based in Whitstable, the company follows in the footsteps of renowned Kent animators Peter Firmin and Oliver Postgate.

Friday is Young People's Day, offering schools and youth groups the chance to learn about the business of animation. They will have opportunities to meet models of Wallace and Gromit and to hear from the creators, Aardman Animations.

Bagpuss and Emily Firmin, daughter of creator Peter Firmin, will be making appearances and the work of local schoolchildren will be showcased too. Students from Spires Academy, Archbishop's School, St Anselm's Catholic School, Barton Court Grammar, Simon Langton Girls Grammar and Community College, Whitstable, have been taking part in the Arts to Animation Project, and their films will be screened on Friday.

Saturday is the main festival day and there is plenty lined up for visitors of all ages to enjoy. The doors at Augustine House open at 10.30am and the first event begins at 11am. Aardman Animations offers a glimpse behind the scenes of Wallace and Gromit's world, when a member of the production crew sheds light on how the award-winning films are made.

At 12.30pm, children and the young at heart can enter the magical world of The Gruffalo. Julia Donaldson's much-loved children's book was adapted by the BBC and the animated film features the voices of James Corden, Helena Bonham Carter and John Hurt. The film is being given a special screening on Saturday and tickets



cost £5 for adults and £3 for children.

The work of Peter Firmin and Oliver Postgate is celebrated at 2.30pm, when the Children of Small Films – Dan and Stephen Postgate, Emily and Charlotte Firmin – share their memories of growing up around such classic animated characters as Bagpuss and the Clangers.

The event will be introduced by children's television director Martin Goodsmith and tickets cost £5/£3.

At 4pm the entries in the short film competition will be screened, and the awards will be

presented. Entries include On the Water's Edge by Tommaso di Sanctis, An Audience With by David Keefe, Polished Off by David Edgley, Mi'au Myau by Vida Vega, Matter Fisher by David Prosser, Mad Dogs and Englishmen by Daniel Chester, Thursday by Matthias Hoegg, Traumdeutung by Lauri Warsta, Gorge by Thomas Knowler, Paper Daydream by Jun Iwakawa and The Eagleman Stag by Mike Please.

Spend an evening with Phill Jupitus, pictured left, and comedian Emma Kennedy at 7pm, finding out which cartoons make them laugh. Jupitus will discuss his love for Looney Tunes and Kennedy, the author of the Wilma Tenterfoot children's crime series, will reveal her penchant for Bugs Bunny. Tickets cost £10.

Adult day passes cost £25/£20. To book call 01227 769075 or go online at [www.thegulbenkian.co.uk](http://www.thegulbenkian.co.uk).



TO FIND MORE THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENT NEWS LOG ON AT [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)

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## THE LITTLE BIG CLUB

Sunday, October 10, Winter Gardens, Margate



SIX popular children's characters appear together on stage for the first time in The Little Big Club.

In this vibrant theatre production, an ensemble of preschool favourites will be appearing to entertain their fans. Packed with music, fun and laughter, The Little Big Club is a great way to introduce children to live theatre in an exciting way.

Bob the Builder, Barney and Friends, Angelina Ballerina, Fireman Sam, Fifi Forget-Me-Not and Pingu will all be making appearances and joining in the fun. The Little Big Club

Band provides the music and encourages the audience to join in with each character when they go on stage.

For the grand finale, all the characters will join together to bring the show to an uplifting close. To find out more about the show, visit the website at [www.thelittlebigclub.com](http://www.thelittlebigclub.com).

The 70-minute performance starts at 1pm. Tickets cost £12 for adults, £10 for children and £40 for families of four. To book call the box office on 01843 292795/296111 or visit the website at [www.margatewintergardens.co.uk](http://www.margatewintergardens.co.uk).



## KASAI MASAI

Monday, October 11, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



PERK up your lunchtime with a free concert from world music band, Kasai Masai.

Sponsored by law firm Furley Page, the show is the first in a season of free lunchtime concerts in Canterbury. With their intriguing blend of traditional sounds and contemporary influences, Kasai Masai will brighten up any day.

Taking the ancestral music of remote equatorial African villages, which has been passed down from generation to generation, the band adds its own unique twist to the songs. Percussion and vocals are com-

bined with the Congolese guitar and jazz saxophone to create the distinctive Kasai Masai sound.

Furley Page will be sponsoring three concerts over the coming months. On November 8, the dynamic duo of Mark Eden and Christopher Stell will give guitar renditions of works by Bach and Rodrgigo, while the choristers of Canterbury Cathedral will sing on December 6.

The lunchtime concerts start at 1.10pm and there is a suggested donation of £3. To find out more go to the website at [www.kent.ac.uk](http://www.kent.ac.uk) and visit the music page.

## RODNEY BEWES - THREE MEN IN A BOAT



Sunday, October 10, Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

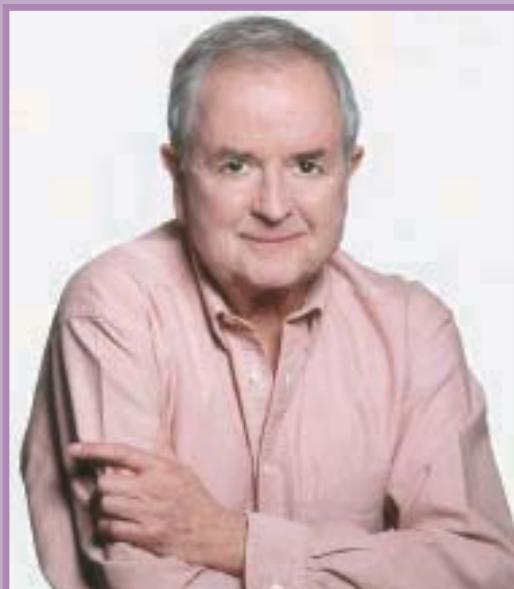
A CLASSIC story of messing about on the river is brought to life by veteran actor Rodney Bewes.

The star of The Likely Lads will be delighting the audience with stories about three friends taking a boating trip up the Thames, in the company of Montmerency the dog, Jerome K Jerome's much-loved book provides the source material for this highly entertaining comedy, performed by one of our greatest comic actors.

When three friends decide to take a holiday together, they settle on a boating trip, but things go wrong from the outset. During the trip they experience various comic scenarios, including the time that Harris manages to get 40 strangers lost in Hampton Court maze.

A big success at this year's Edinburgh Festival, Three Men in a Boat is an enchanting show that demonstrates the talents of both Bewes and Jerome.

The show starts at 6pm and tickets cost £10.50 for Sarah Thorne Theatre Club members and £12.50 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance. To book call 0845 262 6263 or email [info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk) to reserve.



## STINA WILSON AND ALEX RIDER



Friday, October 8, Town Hall, Deal

ENJOY the enchanting sounds of flute and harp at the second of the Deal Festival chamber concerts.

Local flautist Stina Wilson will perform with harpist Alex Rider, who is currently on the Masters programme in music at Canterbury Christ Church University.

They will present a varied programme, which includes works by Bach, Donizetti, Antoine Francisque, Alan Hovhaness and Ian Clarke.

Wilson lives in Canterbury, but she has performed throughout the UK, Europe and US. She studied at the Guildhall before moving on to the Paris Conservatoire and the Moscow Conservatoire. She has worked with a number of high-profile orchestras, holding the position of principal flute at Opera North for 17 years.

After studying under Frances Kelly and Gabriella Dall'Olio, Rider moved to Canterbury to continue his studies and has been in high demand as an orchestral and chamber musician. His local appearances have included performing alongside Wilson as part of the Cinque Ports Ensemble concert at last year's festival.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10 or £18 for two concerts from the Sound House on 01304 381134.



## PATRICK MONAHAN



Friday, October 8

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate

COMEDIAN Patrick Monahan will be aiming for the funny bone when he visits Thanet this week.

With a complex cultural background that includes northern, Irish and Iranian elements, Monahan has some interesting influences to draw on. Last year's national tour was so successful that he is back on the road again to win more fans.

Combining his observational comedy with a sharp wit and entertaining audience interaction, he has become highly popular on the live circuit.

Monahan has often been seen on The Paul O'Grady Show on Channel 4 and has sold out a number of runs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. One critic declared his show to be the best at the festival in 2008 and he has drawn comparisons to Ed Byrne, Adam Bloom and Ross Noble.

He will have support from Alan Seaman, who performs extracts from his show, Shopping and Cooking.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12/£10. To book call the box office on 01843 591750. To find out more about Patrick Monahan and watch clips of his routines, visit [www.patrickmonahan.co.uk](http://www.patrickmonahan.co.uk).





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Tenterden Town Station



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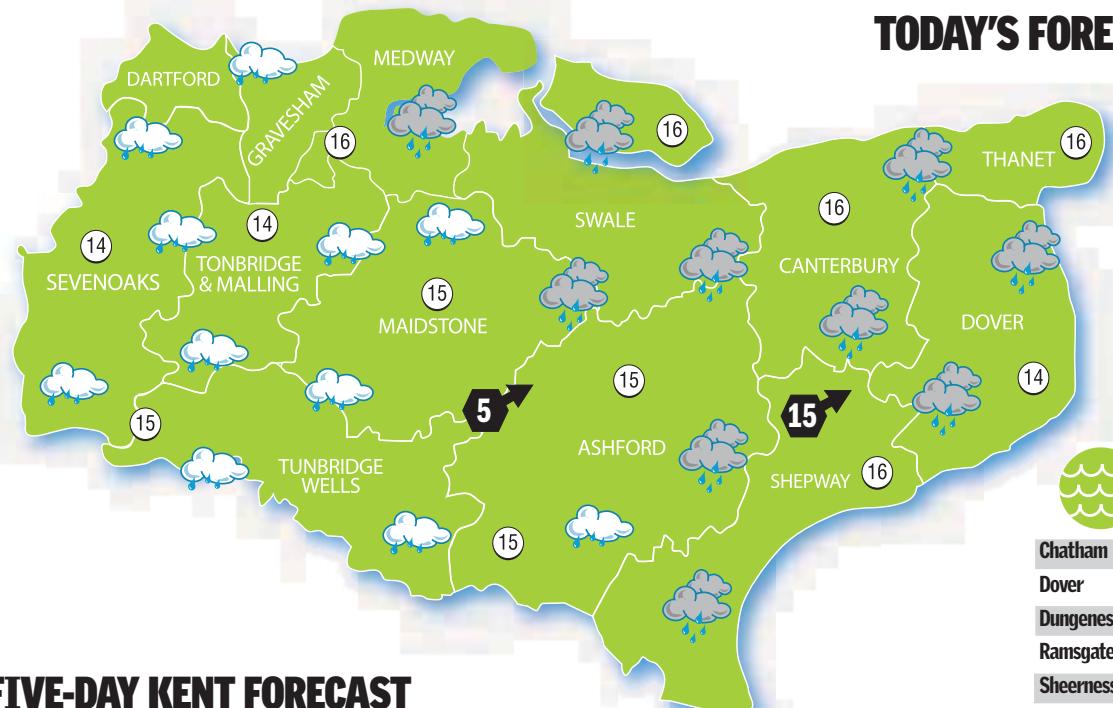


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Amsterdam	22°C	Madrid	19°C
Athens	24°C	New York	16°C
Barcelona	25°C	Paris	18°C
Beijing	22°C	Rome	25°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	21°C
Cape Town	26°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	15°C	Tokyo	22°C
Gibraltar	21°C	Vancouver	15°C
Hong Kong	27°C	Warsaw	13°C
Las Palmas	28°C	Wellington	15°C

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	17°C	16°C	18°C	19°C	18°C
Canterbury	18°C	16°C	17°C	19°C	16°C
Chatham	17°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	16°C
Dartford	18°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	18°C
Dover	16°C	15°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Faversham	17°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	16°C
Folkestone	16°C	15°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Gillingham	17°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	16°C
Gravesend	18°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	18°C
Maidstone	17°C	16°C	17°C	19°C	18°C
Ramsgate	18°C	16°C	17°C	19°C	16°C
Rochester	17°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	16°C



## KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	2:19pm 6.6m	Sunday	3:01pm 6.6m
Dover	Saturday	12:33pm 7.2m	Sunday	1:15pm 7.0m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:39pm 8.4m	Sunday	1:20pm 8.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:03pm 5.5m	Sunday	1:45pm 5.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:09pm 6.2m	Sunday	2:51pm 6.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:15pm 5.7m	Sunday	2:59pm 5.7m



SUNRISE 7:04am

SUNSET 6:22pm



MOONRISE 5:15am

MOONSET 5:19pm



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# yourcompetition

## Fearne Cotton and Holly Willoughby by visit Bluewater! **WIN! a signed copy of their new book**

RADIO 1's Fearne Cotton and Holly Willoughby, most commonly known as the co-presenter on ITV1's This Morning, will be making the very first stop of their limited tour at Waterstones, Bluewater, Europe's leading retail and leisure destination.

The pair will be signing copies of their new book, *The Best Friends' Guide to Life*, October 13, from 5.30pm.

Real life best-friends, Fearne and Holly, share their views, opinions and plenty of funny and personal stories in this aspirational lifestyle guide for women.

Fearne describes how they came up with the idea: "We thought there was a guide missing out there for people around our age or a bit younger, who need advice on different things. I don't think there are any limits for girls these days and that's what this book is all about."



The new book draws on their own experiences in life, love, friendship and work; both are team captains on ITV2 Celebrity Juice and each have their own fashion ranges for very.co.uk.

The Best Friends Guide to Life is packed with exclusive photos of the girls (from past to present), lots of which have never been seen before. Plus there is an added bonus of more than 20 exclusive illustrations especially created by Fearne.

For your chance to win one of 15 signed copies of *The Best Friends' Guide to Life*, £16.99, published by Vermilion simply answer the following question:

**Q: What TV show is both Holly and Fearne team captains on?**

**A: I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here**

**B: ITV2 Celebrity Juice**

**C: Big Brother**

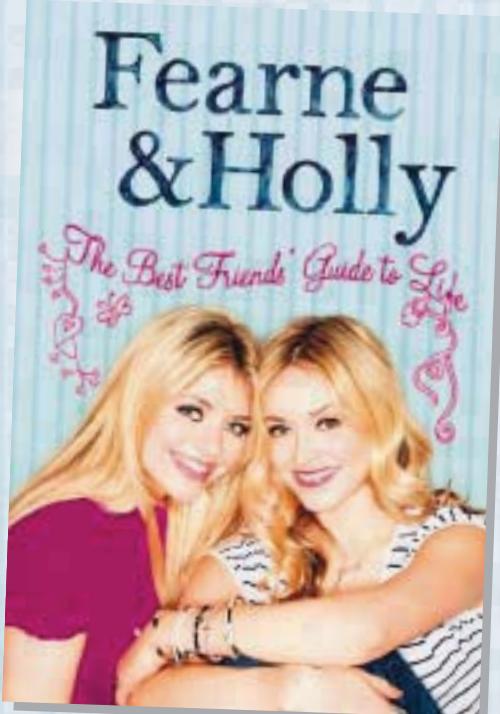
Send your answers on a postcard to Fearne and Holly Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is Monday, October 11, 2010.

No purchase necessary.

For our full Ts&Cs please visit [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk), or for a posted copy call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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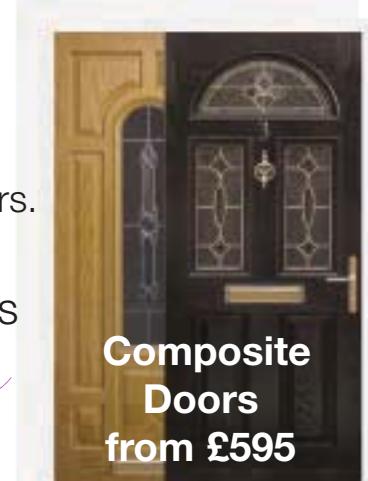
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# Oscar hopeful Reynolds goes underground in this dark thriller

■ BY DAMON SMITH

FILM-MAKING is a collaborative process, pooling the creativity and imagination of dozens, sometimes hundreds, of individuals behind of and in front of the cameras.

Rodrigo Cortes's thriller goes back to basics and daringly asks us to invest all of our emotions in just one character who spends the entire film on screen trapped in a single, cramped location.

Not since Sam Rockwell discovered the terrifying secrets of Moon or Tom Hanks found himself a Cast Away with only a volleyball for company, has the entire weight of a film rested on one actor's shoulders.

Hollywood hunk Ryan Reynolds had a glorious 2009, paired with Sandra Bullock in the romantic comedy The Proposal.

Now he is very much on his own in Buried, which traps the actor inside a wooden coffin deep underground for 94 nail-biting minutes.

Cortes doesn't allow his camera to escape from the subterranean prison for a single second – no flashbacks, no fleeting glimpses of the sunshine above the tomb.

Instead, the camera cleverly moves around the space over Reynolds's dirty, sweat-drenched body, lit by the flickers of a cigarette lighter or the beam of a torch.

When darkness occasionally prevails, we can still hear his rapid breathing and his clothes catching on splinters of wood.

Viewers who suffer from claustrophobia should look away...

Truck driver Paul Conroy (Reynolds) is attacked during a convoy run in Iraq and wakes inside a crudely-constructed coffin.

With no obvious way out, Paul discovers a mobile phone with a weak signal and hurriedly calls for help, telling the 911 operator, "I don't know what's going on. I'm buried in a box!"

As anxiety takes hold in the cramped con-



**TRAPPED:** Ryan Reynolds is kidnap victim Paul Conroy, the only character seen on screen in Buried, which is set in a makeshift coffin deep underground

fines of his prison, Paul discovers that terrorists have placed him in the box and want a five million dollar ransom.

The terrorist leader, Jabir (Jose Luis Garcia-Perez), is adamant: For Paul to see his wife Linda (Samantha Mathis) again, he must pay up.

Dan Brenner (Robert Paterson), an officer trained in hostage negotiation, and trucking company rep Alan Davenport (Stephen Tobolowsky) seem powerless to help.

The prospects look bleak.

Buried wrings every last drop of tension from a simple dramatic set-up, making excellent use of the natural lighting to capture Paul's mounting distress.

There are whispers of a possible Oscar nomination for Reynolds for his overwrought theatrics.

But while he certainly holds our attention, the actor doesn't have the emotional range to take us to the edge with his stricken character

and he doesn't always earn our sympathy, culminating in a skin-crawling interlude involving an unexpected visitor to the box.

Occasional deviations from logic – the final power bar on Paul's mobile phone lasts much longer than expected – feel like a bit of a cheat.

**BURIED**  
Certificate 15



**INSPIRATIONAL:** Richard Armstrong as Lucas North, one of the agents in Spooks



**YOUR TV REVIEW** **SPOOKS:** BBC1, 9pm, Monday, **GENIUS:** BBC2, 10pm, Monday

ALTHOUGH usually a fan of this high-action spy thriller, the newest series has not lived up to my expectations.

As Spooks is a programme with a high character turnover, this is not entirely unexpected. Spooks' peaks thus far have been Series 1 and 4. The first series took many by surprise in 2002, with its timely portrayal of MI5 agents battling the forces of evil on British home soil.

Series 4 proved to be eerily prophetic in filming an episode of a terrorist group bombing London just before the real thing happened.

At its best, Spooks is full of nail-biting jeopardy, believable plots, inspirational characters and rides the zeitgeist perfectly to bring involving hour-long episodes which would stun any room to silence.

But this season something has

gone wrong. One of the most believable characters, Ros Myers, has gone leaving a very small cast indeed. The first episode was passable, but involved far more unrequited love than a British spy drama needs.

And the second episode was very light on real plot, instead focusing on various agents' questionable loyalties and back stories rather than letting the action and adventure take hold.

The scriptwriters do not do the programme any favours when interpersonal love affairs get in the way of the real queen and country action stuff, which is what anyone who watches a spy show really wants.

There is one character who is still managing to be a proper spy – as yet minor character Dimitri Levendis, an

ex-SBS man who is amusing, relaxed and uncomplicated. Hopefully he will play a more major role in the episodes to come and leave the others to their tortuous intrigues.

TO prevent drivers falling asleep at the wheel, put a wasp in every car. This is one of the many ideas submitted for the new series of Genius, in which the eccentric musings of the great British public are given a thorough examination before being judged either genius or barmy. television series and some of the teething problems have been ironed out. It is livelier, more fun, more quirky and less awkward.

The only disappointment is that the geniuses who were previously used as judges have been replaced by the comedy personalities that pervade all other television.

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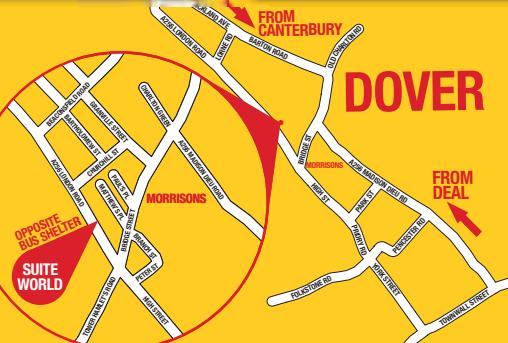
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# yourmusic

## Synth pop stars to play classics



HUMAN LEAGUE: Philip Oakey, Susan Ann Sulley, and Joanne Catherall

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

SYNTH pop legends The Human League will play a pre-Christmas gig in Kent.

The 1980s chart-toppers will perform at Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall on Monday, December 6.

Fans can expect frontman Philip Oakey and band to get through all their classic hits, including Don't You Want Me, Love Action, The Sound of the Crowd, Mirror Man.

A Leas Hall spokesman said the band, who are currently working on their 10th studio album, were trendsetters.

They said: "Synth pop's first international superstars, the Human League were among the most innovative bands to break into the pop mainstream on a wave of synthesizers and electronic rhythms."

The seafront venue will play host to a number of top musical nights before the big 80s electro throwback, starting on Friday, October 29, with Abba tribute act Abba Mania.

The programme promises a show time of two hours and 15 minutes, giving the band ample time to churn out all of Benny and Bjorn's most popular timeless tracks.

The setlist will no doubt include the likes of Mamma Mia, Voulez Vous, Dancing Queen, The Winner Takes It All, Super Trooper, and many more.

According to the Leas Cliff Hall official website, Abba Mania, accepted as the world's number one touring Abba production, celebrates Abba's music in a respectful and enjoyable way.

Should be a cracking night.

The tribute trend continues on Saturday, October 30, when AC/DC cover band Livewire perform tracks such as To Hell, Thunderstruck and Back In Black.

Support on the night comes from Thin Lizzy tribute act Limehouse Lizzy.

Pop starlet Ellie Goulding will

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MUSIC FESTIVAL: A montage from this year's Lounge on the Farm



BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love



### TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Flipswitch - 9/10 Maidens Head in Canterbury
- 2 Vivid Nation - 11/10 The Lanterns, Folkestone
- 3 Third Place Victory - 15/10 Westcoast Bar, Margate
- 4 Save Target As - 16/10 Astor Theatre, Deal
- 5 Promise Me Tomorrow - 23/10 The Railway, Deal

be at the Folkestone venue on Wednesday, November 17, as part of her biggest UK tour to date.

The infectious 23-year-old, who shot to fame with the release of her debut album Lights, has enjoyed chart success with breakthrough single Starry Eyes, as well as Guns and Horses, Under the Sheets and The Writer.

Tickets will sell out fast.

For more information on all these nights and to book tickets visit [www.leascliffhall.org.uk](http://www.leascliffhall.org.uk).



GODDESSES OF THE FLESH: The stunning Diosas de Carne at the Club Tropicana near Havana will get you into the rythm of Cuba

# yourgetaways



## See Castro's crazy Cuba while there's still time

■ BY CORDELIA O'NEILL

IT'S a sweltering evening and through the darkness, musicians drum an intoxicating salsa rhythm.

Tall palm trees seemingly swing in time as I sip my glass of seven-year-old rum and prepare for a night to remember.

Suddenly the spotlight swings to the two stages, and a flock of girls – the so-called Diosas de Carne, Goddesses of the Flesh – descend from trees in time to the music.

The music picks up, lights flash on sequinned and feathered costumes, and the Club Tropicana kicks off another long Havana night.

Launched in 1939 at the Villa Mina, a sprawling six-acre estate on the outskirts of the city, this floor show inspired copycat cabaret in Paris, Las Vegas and New York, and has drawn countless tourists to Cuba's capital for nights of decadence, drama and daiquiris.

Very little is new in Cuba – from Spanish colonial style townhouses to the classic American cars – Chevrolets, Buicks and Cadillacs.

One of the best places to view this irrepressible capital is from the top of the 137m high memorial to the island's patriot, Jose Marti.

A slow lift takes you to the top of the obelisk, topped with a statue of the poet, journalist and leader of the 1895 rebellion against Spanish rule.

Having paid my respects, I decide to worship the local culture in a slightly less worthy way, and slip into my gold bikini, don a pair of oversized sunglasses and make for the rooftop pool of my hotel – the neoclassical Saratoga.

### FACT FILE: CUBA

Time difference	- Five hours (GMT)
Capital	Havana
Language	Spanish
Population	11,300,000
Currency	Cuban pesos



Also worth seeing is the Hotel Nacional de Cuba – the flagship hotel and the hangout of Errol Flynn, Marlon Brando and novelist Ernest Hemingway in glitzier times.

One peculiarity of the country is the dual currency system: tourists use a convertible peso (introduced in 2005 to eradicate the US dollar) worth nearly 25 times more than the non-convertible peso for native Cubans.

Castro, whose rule was described by one guide as "like having a very strict father", is a looming presence.

More human aspects of revolutionary life are visible in his birthplace outside the tiny village of Biran, about 750km east of Havana.

Seven Castro siblings grew up here in a comfortably-off family. Castro's father Angel, an immigrant from Spain, owned a farm and expanded with a general store, telegraph room, school, hotel and mini

Cordelia O'Neill was a guest of Thomson Holidays (0871 231 5595 and [thomson.co.uk](http://thomson.co.uk)), which offers twin-centre 11-night stays on the resort of Guardalavaca and Havana from £1,876, including return flights with Thomson Airways to Holguin. Internal flights by Air Cubana. With departures only ex-Gatwick and Manchester, the programme runs all year round.

cock-fighting stadium.

Choose your souvenirs carefully. My favourite place to shop was Perfumeria Habana 1791 – a vintage-style perfumery where trainees mix a scent using notes including citrus, jasmine, rose, lavender and tobacco.

If you want cigars, don't buy a box on street corners, lest they are rolled-up banana leaves, and keep receipts for customs officials.

But Havana is only a part of Cuba's heritage. For a traditional Caribbean break, we headed for Cayo Saetia, off Guardalavaca.

In Cuba, a sea-change is coming. Since Fidel Castro handed over to his brother in 2006, the island has opened itself to the West, and President Obama's election could end the ban on visitors from the US.

Enjoy this crazy, contradictory country before too many Americans arrive.

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## MOTORS NEWS



### Focus is all about style for the third generation

FORD has produced a dramatic third generation Focus after criticism that the current version betrayed the innovative styling of the original.

A sporty five-door hatchback will be the mainstay of the new range, due early next year, but there is also a classy estate.

The newcomer is touted as a true 'world car' for Ford, rather than a specifically European one, and features a high quality interior in line with Ford's intention to move upmarket in search of profitability and image rather than volume.



### Kia bring their 'Mondeo masher' to the sector

AMBITIOUS Kia intends to muscle in on the crowded 'D segment' or Mondeo sector of the motor market with a striking all-new model – the Optima.

If looks are anything to go by, this will be a classy upgrade from the woeful Magentis with which the Korean marque hoped and failed to gain a toehold in this arena.

The newcomer also has an eye on the tax bill faced by 'company car man' – it will use low emission economic drive-trains. It arrives in mid to late 2011.



### Baby Mazda's upgrade

MAZDA has upgraded its clever and smart little three and five-door Mazda2 supermini just three years after launch.

There are cosmetic changes on the outside, but it is enhanced cabin quality and feel that is most welcome; in the search for an eco-friendly lightweight design, one felt that too many corners were cut with the interior, but that has been righted.

Powertrains have also been upgraded to comply with tougher EU emissions regulations and Mazda says bodyshell and suspension updates provide more comfort and smoothness.



**STILL GOING STRONG:** VW's Golf Blue Motion is the German carmaker's green offering, but uses a conventional diesel engine and it just as effective as its various hybrid rivals

# Green Golf showing that 'old' technology still lives

IS the internal combustion engine gasping its last revs?

Is its best hope to linger as the oily half of part-electric hybrids like the Toyota Prius, before electric and/or hydrogen power consigns it to the scrap heap?

Yes and yes, eventually, but new technology costs and making more of old technology can be cheaper and just as effective, judging by the greenest VW Golf so far.

Confusingly known as the BlueMotion, it renders the hybrid Toyota Prius pretty pointless, being cheaper, more compact, more economical at motorway cruising and more interesting to drive.

It also matches its Japanese rival for road tax exemption through low emissions, and by averaging around 70mpg.

The Golf BlueMotion itself is powered by a lively 103bhp 1.6-litre diesel that has not been emasculated to slash emissions or saddled with ridiculously steep gear ratios, though the five-speed 'box does have higher ratios on third, fourth and top.

There is not only plenty of clout for a smart take-off, but generous power throughout the

## ROAD TEST GOLF BLUEMOTION

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
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Green rating	★★★★★

range; it is a green car that can be driven with verve. Nor does the BlueMotion dither on bends due to poor grip from its energy-saving, low-rolling resistance tyres.

And there is magic elsewhere, notably from a smooth stop/start system that cuts and then automatically re-starts the engine when halted by traffic lights, a jam or other delay.

The engine is also burdened less by the alternator – energy normally lost through braking is recovered to top-up the battery.

Weight and wind resistance have been shaved too and this paragon of eco-motoring actually looks as mean as some sportier Golf models, while sharing their excellent refinement and an interior that is robust, classy and well-arranged without being ostentatious.

Admittedly, Golfs are not cheap and our five-door BlueMotion test car is £18,715 against £17,895 for the 'standard' 1.6 S diesel closest to it in the range.

That car will cost you £20 a year in road tax after year one of ownership and averages about 10mpg less than its green sister, but you can see from the above where that extra £800 or so has been spent – and it is a lower premium than you will see on some other eco rivals.



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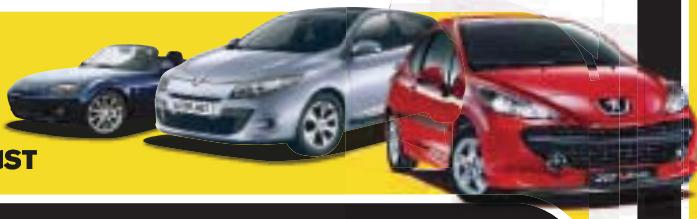


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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Older homeowners facing big repair bills

MORE than a third of Britain's homeowners aged over 50 say their homes are in need of repair, but more than one in seven are unable to pay for them.

According to research from Saga Personal Finance, women in particular are suffering, with one in five forced to allow their homes to deteriorate.

In London, 42 per cent of older homeowners need housing repairs.

The poll of more than 14,000 over 50s identified roof, drainage and guttering problems as the main areas of concern.

When asked how they might pay for housing maintenance, half of those questioned planned to use their savings and only a third expected to finance the work from their regular income.

Less than one per cent said they would ask family or a friend for help.

Saga executive chairman, Andrew Goodsell, said: "People are living longer which means that retirement incomes have to stretch a lot further."

"For many, equity release is the ideal solution, but until now the market has not listened to people's needs and providers insist on charging hefty fees."

### Rrepossession fears as budget cuts loom

A LEADING credit rating agency has warned that Government cuts and tax increases could result in a rise in repossessions across the UK housing market.

According to Standard & Poor's, the house price crash did not bring the average cost of a home in line with household incomes, and measures yet to be implemented by the coalition government could test some mortgage borrowers.

In recent years, UK lenders have been exercising forbearance over mortgage arrears, keeping reposessions below estimates, but S&P has noted that Britain has a "high percentage" of sub-prime borrowers in arrears, and suggests that job losses or a jump in interest rates could cause a rise in repossessions.

The firm's report follows a recent warning from the Consumer Credit Counselling Service.

Recently the national charity revealed that it has on its books a number of clients with suspended repossession orders, lenders having not yet enforced orders, despite borrowers failing to meet repayments ordered by the courts.

However, the CCCS suggests that a hardening of attitudes by banks and building societies could lead to a rise in repossessions in 2011.



# Detached homes lead way against recession

■ BY NICK AMES

DESPITE the current uncertainty in the market there has been good news recently for one particular set of homeowners

The average price of a detached family home has risen by more than any other property type over the past year.

According to new research from Halifax, owners of detached properties saw the value of their homes increase by £91 a day over the year to the end of June, with a 13 per cent leap taking the average value of a stand-alone property to £299,295.

By comparison, prices for all other property types rose by just eight to nine per cent over the period.

However, going back over the past decade, semi-detached homeowners have been the biggest winners, with the cost of the typical semi surging ahead by 111 per cent since 2000.

For terraced homeowners, growth stood at 110 per cent and for bungalow dwellers, 109 per cent.

Flats were the only property type not to double in value, with an 81 per cent average increase over the last 10 years.

Halifax housing economist, Suren Thiru, comments: "The changing pattern of homes bought over the past decade highlights some significant socio-economic forces.

"For example, the rise in the proportion of sales of flats and terraced homes reflects the increasing trend for people to live alone."

While married households remain the most common form of UK home, single person properties are projected to take the lead by 2020, according to a Communities and Local Government forecast.

The news comes amidst fears that the prices of property across the UK could fall again, after a few months of consolidation.



**GOOD INVESTMENT:** Detached family homes are increasing in value faster than any other type, say analysts

But analysts say there are very different values and prices across the country, with the worst decline in value in the north and outlying regions.

Kent and London continue to avoid the

worst of the recession, but recent figures suggest they are not immune to the national downturn. However the increasing number of properties on the market is giving buyers a better choice.

# Fall in prices 'good news for sales'

SURVEYORS say they are feeling less optimistic about UK house prices, with more respondents to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) latest survey expecting prices to fall, rather than rise, over the next three months.

However, RICS spokesman, Jeremy Leaf, points out that while prices in many parts of the country may be slipping, sales levels could begin to pick up as a result.

Mr Leaf said: "Looking forward, our price

indicators are telling a mixed story, which is consistent with the uncertainty hanging over the economy, the low level of interest rates and the lack of new house building."

Separately, the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) reported that there were only 56,000 house purchase loans approved in July, as loans to first-time buyers declined to 19,400, down from 19,700 in June and from 20,100 in the same period of 2009.

The first-time buyer share of the market fell

to 34 per cent, its lowest level since the credit crisis began in August 2007.

The CML suggests that loan criteria have now "tightened a little", having eased in the early part of the year, with the typical first-time putting down a deposit of 24 per cent in July, up from 21 per cent in April and May.

However, low interest rates mean that for those getting a foot on the property ladder, interest payments are at their most affordable since early 2004.

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**New Romney**

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- No Pets/No DSS

New Romney: 01797 364600



**Littlestone**

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- No DSS, No Pets

New Romney: 01797 364600

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Interviews to be held on 19th October 2010.

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Closing date Friday 22nd October 2010

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[www.brunningandprice.co.uk](http://www.brunningandprice.co.uk)

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email: [hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk](mailto:hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk)

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**CLOSING DATE: Friday 8 October 2010**

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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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**CLOSING DATE: Friday 15 October 2010**

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KOS Media publishes the UK award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and a series of free weekly newspapers, magazines and associated websites and mobile products.

The company produces [kentnews.co.uk](http://kentnews.co.uk) and [yourkentTV](http://yourkentTV), an internet-based TV service providing regional and local news, business and sport, plus websites for jobs, property and motors.

KOS Media's newspapers have won more than 10 national awards, including UK Regional Newspaper of the Year, and UK Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year six times.

In June, 2010, media group Archant purchased KOS Media.

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GOLDEN GIRL: Lisa Dobriskey is a Commonwealth champion

# Lisa praises Commonwealth ethos

LISA Dobriskey has leapt to the defence of the Commonwealth Games which came under fire ahead of the 19th edition, which began this week.

The 26-year-old middle-distance runner was due to compete for England in Delhi but was forced to withdraw last month due to injury.

Although she is unable to compete in India, she says the games still hold an important place in sport.

The Commonwealths, which began on Sunday, have come under severe scrutiny over levels of security and hygiene.

Critics have suggested the city is not

## ATHLETICS

ready to host the event and the Commonwealth Games concept itself is not in keeping with modern times.

The event has a special hold on Dobriskey, who won 1500m gold in Melbourne four years ago, helping to catapult her onto the world athletics scene.

The Ashford athlete says the games must continue in order to help bring through the next wave of talent.

She said: "There are so many athletes

who perhaps might not make international squads in a multi-sport event and the Commonwealth Games gives people the chance to compete for their home nations.

"It is such a big opportunity for athletes as this is the only other big multi-sports Games similar to the Olympics.

"It is almost like a training run for the Olympics and really does prepare you for it.

The whole ethos behind the games is inspiring for young athletes to get involved in sport and for people who watch it on television."

## CRICKET

### Ulley Road lease secures future of Kennington club

KENNINGTON Cricket Club's future has been secured after agreeing a 999-year lease on their home ground at Ulley Road.

The club, which has five senior sides, have been playing at the facility since 1882 and an agreement has been reached with Kennington Hall Estate, which will extend their stay indefinitely.

Club president Peter Grant said: "Full legal tenure is vital in our efforts to improve the club's facilities.

"We will now be embarking on a campaign to upgrade the pavilion and clubhouse."

On the pitch the club enjoyed a successful season, gaining promotion to Kent Regional League 1A East after finishing runners-up in 1B East this summer. Following their success, 1st XI captain Chris Watts is looking to recruit players for next year's campaign.

Kennington's junior section are also looking to strengthen ahead of next summer, particularly from those in school years four to 11.

Anyone interested in joining the club can contact head coach John Cunningham on 01233 612162.

## FOOTBALL

### Live and kicking playing the field

KENT Football Live returns this weekend and is your chance to follow your side's progress as the season really begins to heat up.

Featured games this weekend are Gillingham v Stockport County and Canvey Island v Dartford.

But don't worry, if you're not a fan of these Kent sides, we'll still bring you goals from games involving our sides, as well as half-time and full-time scores.

We'll also bring you results from the Kent League after full-time.

All you have to do is log on to [www.kentsport.co.uk](http://www.kentsport.co.uk) from 2pm onwards and watch the afternoon's action unfold.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT**  
**glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk**

# Skipper believes agony of close defeat will spur Ashford to new heights

## RUGBY

■ BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

### Lordswood 12 Ashford 11

A TRY in the final ten minutes ended Ashford's 100 per cent start to the new Kent 1 season at Lordswood on Saturday.

Ashford went into the game brimming with confidence after recording bonus point wins from their previous three league fixtures. But on the day they were confronted by a tough forwards battle and experienced the agony of a last-gasp defeat.

Pete Walsh, Ashford's skipper, admitted his players were extremely disappointed at the final whistle but remains convinced his side will win the league this season.

He said: "It was an extremely close game and a real battle out there. We wanted to go the entire season undefeated but I told the boys that champions don't have to do that.

"I've also told them to remember this feeling – I hope it will spur them on. I'm confident we will be at the top of the table come the end of the season."

The visitors started brightly and took the lead in the opening five minutes through Walsh, who finished off a move started by fly-half JJ Murray. The usually reliable kicker failed to add the extras.

The game was not an advert for attacking rugby and became dominated by the forwards, which limited the amount of scoring opportunities. Lordswood soon responded with a try when their centre managed to find a way through Ashford's defensive line. The away side were guilty of a number of missed tackles in the move, but the Lords missed the conversion to leave the scores level at 5-5.

Ashford finished the half strongly and took a narrow three-point lead into the break, courtesy of a penalty from Murray. The second half mirrored the first, with try scoring chances few and far between, but another well-struck penal-



HANDS OFF: But Ashford (black/orange/red) were unable to stop Lordswood nicking victory in the closing minutes

ty from Murray kept the scoreboard ticking

over and extended the lead.

With the game heading towards full-time the visitors seemed to be in control, but a penalty awarded to Lordswood deep in the 22 turned the game on its head.

The hosts took it quickly, catching Ashford cold to dive over under the posts. The following conversion condemned Ashford to the narrowest of defeats.

Ashford aim to bounce back on Saturday when they host Old Gravesendians, who are yet to register a single point this season.



# Town's respectful pause



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

## FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

ASHFORD Town are expected to reveal their new manager in the next week after delaying the proposed announcement.

The club were expected to showcase their new first team manager at the Stuart White Memorial game last Friday, which was called off at short notice due to a power cut.

Town had already decided against the announcement beforehand so as not to deflect attention from the game.

Chairman Ernie Warren, who is pleased by the appointment the club have made, says

they are likely to announce Steve Lovell's replacement in the coming days. The only clues to the identity of the new Town boss revealed so far are that he started his career at Ashford Town and has played for Welling United and Maidstone United.

Warren also confirmed the new manager has yet to make any decisions on the playing front.

He said: "It was our intention to unveil the manager at the game but decided to wait, out of respect for Stuart White. Hopefully by next week we will be able to announce everything."

"The new manager hasn't done anything yet because it's too early, but I'm sure he's been thinking about what he wants to do privately."

"He's not made any appointments but there are some old players who have offered their help and support in getting behind the idea."

"We're hoping we can put a few old heads out there as well as some promising youngsters,

but that won't happen until about April. By Christmas we should know what league we are going to be in."

There are no plans to reschedule the Stuart White fixture itself, despite reports it had been rearranged for this Friday. Organiser Gary Kirton said there was not enough time for the two exhibition teams, representing Ashford and Welling United, to rearrange.

He said: "It's such a shame, but we were unable to get all the players together for this Friday. If it does happen again it will be in November."

There will be another charity game at Homelands on October 21, when the club hosts the Barry Cunningham Memorial Cup. An Ashford Elite XI are due to go up against a Maidstone United XI, with the proceeds going to the cancer unit at the William Harvey Hospital.

**CHANGING TIMES:** The new man in charge at Homelands will be revealed in the next week, says club chairman Ernie Warren

## FOOTBALL

# No cup run as Green thrashed

BROMLEY Green's Kent Inter Regional Challenge Cup hopes are over for another year after a resounding 5-1 defeat at Farnborough.

Green started Saturday's game strongly, with Ryan Norman and Micky Doyle going close to breaking the deadlock in a goalless first half.

However, they were forced to rue their missed opportunities as Farnborough took the lead when their striker latched on to a long ball and fired home. The visitors hit back immediately with a strike from Norman, but parity was short-lived.

Green's defence struggled to cope with Farnborough and the hosts scored four more goals to wrap up a convincing win. They are back in action on Saturday against league leaders Bredhurst Juniors.

Kennington also suffered a cup defeat as they were beaten 5-2 at home to Canterbury City in the Weald of Kent Trophy on Saturday.

They return to Kent County League Division 1 East action this Saturday at home to New Romney.



DEFEAT: Bromley Green's cup hopes are over

Picture: IGOR KUPCO



DOUBLE STRIKE: Kieran Byrne's brace ended the contest

# Byrne proves too hot for Vale

## FOOTBALL

### Raynes Park Vale 0 Hythe Town 3

WITH a lengthy FA Cup run already in the bag, Hythe Town successfully began their FA Vase campaign at Raynes Park Vale on Saturday.

An own goal gave Scott Porter's side the lead and Kieran Byrne scored a brace for the second successive game to see Hythe comfortably through.

They will meet a familiar foe in the second round after being drawn away to fellow Kent League title hopefuls VCD Athletic. The tie will be played on November 13.

Despite being drawn away, Hythe were warm favourites to progress at Grand Drive against a side second bottom of the Combined

Counties Premier Division.

It only took Town a quarter of an hour to open the scoring, when Marc Skinner put through his own net.

The slender lead remained intact at the break, but in deteriorating conditions Hythe needed a second goal to gain a measure of comfort. It arrived just before the hour mark when Byrne, who scored twice against Erith & Belvedere a week earlier, notched his fourth goal of the season.

The former Folkestone Invicta striker sealed the victory nine minutes from time to give Hythe their fourth successive victory.

Porter's side turn their attention back to the FA Cup this weekend. Town have already negotiated four rounds, but will need to create an upset to progress any further as they visit Ryman Premier side Concord Rangers on Saturday.

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Andy Hessianthalier admits the Gills are suffering a relegation hangover

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## CBeebies Sid's a real hotshot

HE may be the coolest presenter on TV, but Sid Sloane is proving hot property.

The energetic host of the BBC TV children's channel CBeebies will play Robin Hood in this year's show and is already causing quite a stir.

Panto producer Paul Hendy and his promotions team have been out and about at various events across Kent over the last few months – and Sid has been the main talking point.

Paul said: "Sid is one of the most popular presenters on TV and we are really lucky to have him."

"My five-year-old son loves him – and it seems lots of other children (and their mums) do, too."

Sid, who describes himself as "positive, spiritually-minded and ambitious", is tall, loves football and is deadly on the dance-floor.

He reveals more in this exclusive KOS Media question-and-answer session:

- **MOST EXCITING THING ABOUT BEING IN PANTO:** It will be great to be on stage, working hard and sharing the good vibes with the audience and

cast, but also very exciting to work with a fabulous production company on a panto that I've never seen performed before.

- **INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOUR BIRTH YEAR:** The last two digits of the year backwards are the single digits which make up the day and the month.

- **NEAREST AND DEAREST:** Mum, dad, three brothers, one sister, my son, my fiancée, my nephews and my niece, my gran and my cousins all over the world.

- **OCCUPATION:** Actor/writer/presenter.

- **BEST PART OF YOUR JOB:** The people I work with and get to work with all the time. They really care.

- **FAVOURITE CBEBBIES MOMENTS:** Filming in Africa: Kenya in 2008, and South Africa back in May this year.

In South Africa we were at a game reserve and in Kenya we went all around the Masai Mara.

Seeing the elephants and giraffes was the most magical, but there was one moment when I was recording a link from the Range Rover with the elephants crossing in front of me and the camera

at a safe distance in another vehicle behind when suddenly one elephant turned and gave me the look of all looks as if to say "Get any closer and you can kiss goodbye to your friends".

- **DREADLOCKS, FRIEND OR FOE?**

Good one! Friend – in the way that your best friends can be the most annoying, but that's one reason you love them, because you know they'll come good in the end. You trust them.

- **ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO THE 16-YEAR-OLD YOU:** Focus.

- **HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO NOTTINGHAM?** Yes, I performed at the Playhouse there in a touring production of The Twits for the Belgrade Theatre Company nine years ago – I stayed in an area called The Park and had a great time.

I didn't buy any lace, but I did watch Liverpool win the UEFA Cup to complete a cup treble in a pub very near the theatre. And I once got turned off the motorway due to snow on the way up to Sheffield, and we ended up in Nottingham for several hours.

## Your chance to own the famous ghost gag bench

ITS ACTING may be the most wooden you're likely to see, but over the last 15 years the ghost gag bench has developed something of a cult status.

The bench has become one of the most highly-anticipated points of the panto: on it comes and you just know what's going to follow.

Unfortunately, it is going into retirement... but fear not – as Dave Lee would say – it's going to be replaced and a new one will get to see its relatives in Sherwood Forest.

However, rather than put the old version on the bonfire, one KOS Media reader can win it.

Dave is the man (or woman) most associated with the bench and is sorry to see the original one go.

He said: "From the very first time I sat on it, I knew it was something very special. Most of the leading ladies have asked to sit on the bench in the wings – apparently it gives eternal youth and stops your feet aching after three shows on a Saturday.

"These lovely leading ladies include Martine McCutcheon, Toyah Willcox, Daniella Westbrook, Shelia Ferguson, Emma Barton, Barbara Sturgeon and many, many more splendid bottoms, plus a thousand and one dancers.

"Many a man has had to endure the most frightening experience of a lifetime, sitting in the dark with 2,000 gleaming eyes watching and waiting for ghostly figures to appear, only to hear a frightening scream cause one of these brave characters to run off into the wings and back to their dressing room.

"Once they reach the safety of the room all they can hear is the tribal chanting of 'Well, we'll have to sing it again then, won't we, whooops!'."

Dave added: "Some of the male thespians who have braved the magical seat of danger are Brian Blessed, Peter Duncan, Shaun Williamson, Dave Willetts, Lewis Collins, Tim Vincent, Colin Baker and Stephen Mulhern.

"Actors have travelled from the other side of the world for the honour to sit on that piece of English timber.

"From Ramsay Street, Daniel McPherson, Ryan Moloney and Blair McDonough have all contacted me to say this experience has changed their lives forever – and, may I say, mine as well."

- **For your chance to win the bench, simply answer the following question:**

- **For 15 years, Dave has sung the same song during the ghost gag routine. What is the name of the song?**

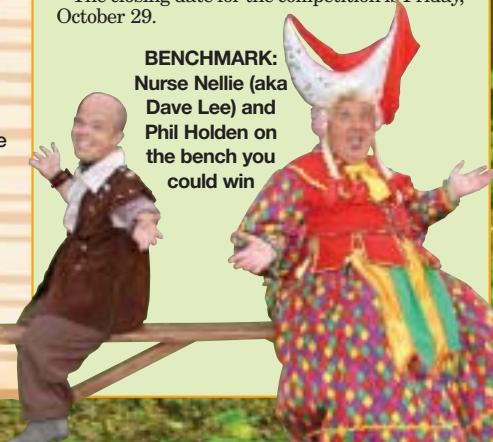
As well as the bench, the winner will receive four tickets to the 7pm performance of Robin Hood on Wednesday, December 8.

Send your entry to: Sarah Munday, Marlowe Theatre, C/O VIC, 12-13 Sun Street, Canterbury CT1 2HX. Please include your name and a daytime phone number.

The closing date for the competition is Friday, October 29.

### BENCHMARK:

Nurse Nellie (aka  
Dave Lee) and  
Phil Holden on  
the bench you  
could win



KENT'S BIGGEST AND MOST POPULAR PANTOMIME!

**John Thomson**

(Cold Feet, Coronation St)

**Sid Sloane**

(Sid from CBeebies)

# Robin Hood

**"A seriously classy  
pantomime" \***  
*The Stage*

**"One of the best  
pantomimes I've seen  
in years!" \***

*Pat Marsh, BBC Radio Kent*

**"Impossible to fault...  
top-notch production" \***  
*Adscene*

**"Big, colourful and  
above all very, very funny" \***  
*Thanet Gazette*

\* Praise for  
previous productions



**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 - 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Box Office 01227 787 787 [www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk](http://www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk) (bike fee applies)**

